

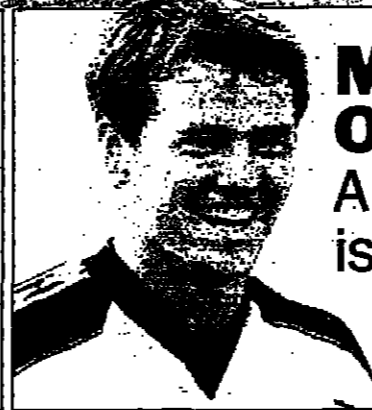


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WEEKEND



**Michael Owen**  
A star is born



Taking on **Diana's battle**  
Queen Noor

IN THE **FREE GLOSSY MAGAZINE**



# THE TIMES

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SATURDAY JULY 4 1998

FK

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## Diana's face 'belongs to the world'

BY DANIEL MCGRORY AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

The face of Diana, Princess of Wales should belong to the world instead of becoming the property of her memorial fund, the Patent Office has decided after a seven-month investigation.

The attempt by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund to turn her image into a trademark has provoked objections from civil servants who fear it would open the floodgates and allow celebrities to stop anybody using pictures of them without permission.

The trustees sent 26 photographs of the late Princess in various fashions and hairstyles to the Patent Office in December to register the images as intellectual property. The fund could have made millions of pounds for charity by licensing her face on tea towels and mugs sold as souvenirs the world over. It would also

have had the power to stop her image being used in bad taste.

Its application has been watched by pop and sports stars who want to control the exploitation of their own faces.

To secure maximum power over the use of the Princess's image, the memorial fund applied for copyright in a huge variety of classes of goods, from kitchen utensils to Christmas tree decorations. The list included items such as yeasts, fire extinguishers and salad dressings, as well as advertising, clothing and games.

The copyright examiner who has studied the application has objected on the ground that the Princess's face was not distinctively linked with the origin of the goods, as the law requires. For example, Pears would be entitled to register its name as a trademark for soap, but probably not for fruit. Lotus is a trademark in three different categories: for cars, shoes and software.

### PRINCESS'S LANDMINES CAMPAIGN TO BE LAW

ANYONE caught manufacturing, stockpiling or exporting anti-personnel landmines will face a maximum of 14 years in prison (Michael Evans writes). The tough penalty is included in the Government's Landmines Bill which was published yesterday, a week before the Commons is due to debate the issue that should become law by the end of this month. The Bill also makes it an offence to "assist,

encourage or induce" any other person to contravene the law and it allows for authorised entry into any premises where it is suspected landmines are being stored or concealed. MPs and anti-mine lobby groups demanded that the convention be ratified in time for the first anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, as a tribute to her own campaigning efforts.

The Princess's face, however, has no obvious connection with a saucepan, a rug or a typewriter, all classes of goods where the fund wanted to register her image as a trademark. The charity can demand a hearing by a more senior officer at the Patent Office and, later,

could take its case to the courts. The fund said it understood that the objection was part of the normal legal procedure. The trustees had until the end of next month to overcome the objections and their application was not being withdrawn.

The £50 million fund is also behind the

decision to snub one of the Princess's favourite charities, the anti-landmine group that took her to Bosnia to see maimed victims and draw world attention to their plight.

The fund's refusal to help the group that took the Princess to see the landmine victims in the last working week of her life is certain to cause more controversy over how the fund is using its cash. The charity, Landmine Survivors' Network, says it was told its application had been rejected because it is American.

The co-founders of the survivors' network, Jerry White and Ken Rutherford, both landmine survivors, said: "The fund says its money should be used to continue Diana's work and that is exactly what we are doing."

Several projects the Princess planned for Bosnia are in jeopardy because of a lack of money while the memorial fund is collecting nearly £1 million a week. Jerry

White said: "We showed the fund how the money was to be spent on projects the Princess was personally involved with when she was with us in Bosnia. The American public has contributed a great deal of money to this fund and how does it look when they are told a US charity can't have any cash to carry on Diana's legacy?"

The Princess made no secret of her affinity to the survivors' network which has secretly approached Queen Noor of Jordan to become its new patron. Queen Noor will address the largest gathering of landmine survivors at an international conference in Amman next week. She has promised to carry on the Princess's work to persuade international leaders to ratify the Ottawa convention which prohibits the use, stockpiling or production of anti-personal mines.

Royal campaign, Magazine, page 28

## Thousands of troops on Ulster alert

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE security forces in Northern Ireland yesterday geared up for a massive operation to keep the Province functioning as hopes of a Drumcree compromise faded and the first police cordons were thrown round Portadown.

Nearly 28,000 troops and police officers are ready to keep the ports, airport and main roads open if the Royal Ulster Constabulary has to prevent the Orange Order marching down the predominantly nationalist Garvaghy Road tomorrow and anarchy engulfs the Province. Hundreds of other troops in Britain have been put on stand-by.

Security sources admitted some towns and villages could be temporarily cut off, but the plans were far more extensive than in 1996 when the Drumcree parade was blocked, loyalists caused mayhem across Northern Ireland and the police were forced to give way to prevent major bloodshed and loss of life.

"There are elaborate contingency plans. There's ample equipment to do the job. There's more than ample manpower to contain whatever they want to try, for as long as they want to try it," said one senior army source. "There



Britain's Tim Henman returns to Pete Sampras during yesterday's semi-final. "It was the toughest match I've played this year," said the defending champion after the game

## Henman serves up a thriller

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND DEBORAH COLCUTT

ENGLISH sport suffered another gallant defeat yesterday when Tim Henman was beaten by Pete Sampras, the No.1 seed and defending champion, in the men's singles semi-final at Wimbledon.

Three days after England went out of the World Cup, Henman failed to become the first Briton to reach the final since Henry "Bunny" Austin in 1938. Henman lost 3-6-4-5-7-3-6.

At the end of a valiant performance, the crowd rose to the Briton, who smiled through his disappointment. Sampras admitted: "There were some very tense moments out there but winning the first set was the key."

A packed Centre Court and an estimated 12 million on television watched Henman, 23, defy Sampras for 2hrs 23 mins. The crowd cheered every shot of Henman, the first Briton to reach this stage since Roger Taylor in 1973. However, Sampras, winner of the title four times in the last five years, withstood all the pressure, including losing the second set, the first time that the American had conceded a set in the tournament this year.

Afterwards, Sampras predicted that Henman would one day win the title. "There are no holes in his game. This was by far the toughest match I have played this year."

Henman, a keen football player, had watched England's World Cup defeat on television and had hoped his run to the semi-finals would revive morale in the country. However, he did not quite have the strength and experience of his friend and practice partner, who is three years older.

Sampras was rarely ruffled, even when in the second game of the third set, he broke his racket. Smiling, he threw it into the crowd.

Thousands of frustrated fans, who were unable to get court-side seats, watched on a giant television screen in the grounds of the All-England Club, while others ate straw-

berries and cream in the evening sunshine listening to radio commentaries.

One consolation for Henman is prize money of £103,750—his biggest pay day since he began playing tennis at his Oxfordshire home at the age of three. His parents, Tony and Jane, who introduced him to the game were watching on Centre Court together with Henman's girlfriend, Lucy Heald.

Sampras will now play Goran Ivanisevic, the No.14 seed, in the final tomorrow. The Croatian beat Richard Krajicek of Holland 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-7, 15-7.

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## Queen 'not amused' by disallowed goal

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE people's Queen shared the nation's grief on Tuesday night when Sol Campbell's disallowed headed goal effectively put England out of the World Cup.

Watching the Argentina match on television at Hollywoodhouse, the Football Association patron leapt to her feet and, with her gift for self-deprecation and mimicry, told the Lord Provost of Edinburgh: "We are not amused."

A private dinner party with the Lord Provost, Eric Milligan, and his wife Janis was rescheduled so that the Queen could watch the start of the match before the first course, and most of the second half after the pudding. Mr Milligan reported yesterday that the Queen had been

## French lose heavily on World Cup costs

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE World Cup is set to prove a financial flop for its French hosts, according to leading economists.

They say it will generate a maximum of Fr8.1 billion (€810 million) for France's economy, significantly less than the estimated Fr9.4 billion that it cost the country to stage.

The figures fly in the face of official promises that the tournament would be an unparalleled opportunity for the tourist industry.

Hoteliers say there were 10 per cent fewer visitors last month than in June 1997. Although tens of thousands of football supporters have arrived, many regular holiday-makers have stayed away.

The Rodin Museum in Paris

## Queen 'not amused' by disallowed goal

BY ALAN HAMILTON

"really thrilled" when she saw Michael Owen's spectacular goal before dinner.

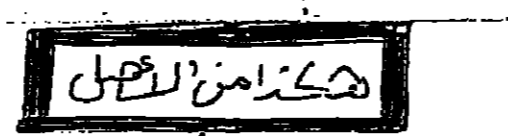
"There was no doubt she was very excited by the quality of England's performance," Mr Milligan said. He discreetly declined to report on her comment on David Beckham.

Palace officials confirmed yesterday that the Queen had ordered a TV set to be installed in the drawing room where monarch, Lord Provost and a group of senior courtiers gathered after dinner.

They went to eat with the score 3-1, and returned to a nail-biting draw. By extra time, the Queen had retired to her private quarters to watch the penalty shoot-out alone, as if the strain were too much to bear in front of guests. "Actu-

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NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

MONDAY

**FASHION**  
Party suits

**SPORT**  
15-16p  
The British Grand Prix

**WORTH OF CASH AND VOUCHER CASH MUST BE WON**

TUESDAY

Body and mind

Yoga that heals

**Arts**  
Richard Cork on Chagall at the Royal Academy

WEDNESDAY

The making of Godzilla

**Inter//face**  
SHOULD WE ALL WORK FROM HOME?

THURSDAY

Best for books

**SATURDAY**  
Robert Redford on the making of the Horse Whisperer

In the FREE glossy magazine

# Eurosceptics plan march to save pound

By NICHOLAS WOOD

PLANS are being made for a crusade to "save the pound", including a huge demonstration in London, when a referendum on British membership of the single European currency is held.

The idea of a mass demonstration modelled on the successful "countryside march" held this year was proposed yesterday by Norman Lamont, the former Conservative Chancellor, and endorsed by leaders of the group emerging as the umbrella body for such a campaign. Speaking at a conference of businessmen opposed to the euro, Mr Lamont said: "If we can get 250,000 people marching for the countryside, you can get half a million demonstrating against the single currency. But it will

need a lot of organising. That's what the Countryside Alliance was able to do. We want to have a really big demonstration in London in favour of retaining the pound. We saw from the countryside rally what a profound influence it had on Tony Blair."

Sir Michael Spicer, the Tory MP who chairs the European Research Group, which organised the conference in London, said that it was too early for such a march. Nearer the time of a referendum — which is likely to be held after the next general election assuming that Labour win it — there would be an outpouring of popular protest against scrapping sterling. "I think when there is an immediate threat, there will be a tremendous coming together. There will be rallies and marches throughout the country."

There are 29 Eurosceptic organisations vying for influence over a future No campaign.

Peter Lilley, the deputy leader of the Conservatives, hardened his party's opposition to the euro, which it has ruled

## FOSTER ADMITS DEFEAT ON FOXHUNTING BILL

REGIONAL referendums on outlawing foxhunting are being "actively considered" by ministers after Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, finally admitted defeat yesterday in his efforts to secure a nationwide ban.

He said he had withdrawn his Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill in an attempt to protect other Private Member's legislation from the "cynical" tactics of his

opponents. He feared that the Tories would use all the parliamentary time available yesterday to oppose his Bill, blocking other measures, including the registration of London minicabs.

Mr Foster's Bill was not the only casualty yesterday. About 50 Private Member's Bills fell by the wayside after one MP or another shouted "object". One exception was the Bill to regulate London minicabs.

out joining for the next ten years, when he addressed the conference. Mr Lilley, who was standing in for William Hague, who is recovering from a sinus operation, said that Britain should not join a single currency even if it appeared to be successful in its early stages.

Mr Lilley said: "It is very

possible that, initially at least, the single currency will seem to be working reasonably well for those who are members of it. Our job is to make clear that such an appearance of success does not constitute an argument for joining."

What mattered was what was "appropriate" for Britain given that its economic cycle

was out of kilter with the rest of Europe and that its economic structure and constitutional traditions were different.

Mr Lilley's remarks reflect Tory concern that Britain might be "bounced" into joining the euro because of the economic recovery gathering pace on the Continent. The remarks were also part of a wider effort by the Conservatives to portray themselves as pragmatists over the euro in contrast to Mr Blair's "dogmatic" enthusiasm.

Mr Lilley also said that opponents of European economic and monetary union had to base their campaign on a proper understanding of public opinion. People were "highly sceptical" about scrapping the pound. But they were also worried that their views might be "ill-informed and fearful that the single currency might now be inevitable."

"They are concerned that if we stay out, we will be left behind... We will have to show that people's instinctive scepticism is based on sensible and legitimate concerns."

"We must not allow their scepticism to be dismissed as a backward-looking isolationist prejudice of which people should be ashamed."

Mr Lilley's comments came after the 110 company chairmen and chief executives present had debated their new report *The Euro: Bad for Business*, which argues that giving up the pound would drive up taxes and interest rates. They disputed the view put forward by the Confederation of British Industry that most businessmen back the euro in principle.

## England supporter accused of murder

By SUSAN BELL AND BEN MACINTYRE

AN ENGLISH football fan appeared before a French court yesterday after allegedly stabbing to death a Frenchman he believed was an Argentinian mocking him.

Paul Birch, 43, is alleged to have stabbed Eric Frachet, 33, an actor, in the stomach on a train from Grenoble to Lyons on Tuesday night before England's defeat. Mr Birch, an engineer from the Isle of Dogs, east London, appeared before a French judge in Bourgoin-Jallieu near Grenoble yesterday.

Police said yesterday that he had admitted stabbing M Frachet. If convicted of murder, he faces a 30-year prison sentence. Mr Birch had reportedly travelled to France to support England, but is not listed as a known hooligan by Scotland Yard. Police in Grenoble said he appeared to be mentally unstable.

The attack was carried out at 7pm on Tuesday as the train approached St-Andre-le-Gaz, a small town northwest of Grenoble. A little known actor who had appeared in several television commercials, M Frachet had been dropped off



Paul Birch, an England fan, is escorted into a court in Bourgoin-Jallieu yesterday. He faces 30 years in prison

at Grenoble station by his grandparents after visiting his family in nearby Noyarey. He was travelling to Paris to attend a casting session the following day.

Mr Birch is believed to have been travelling to St-Etienne for the England-Argentina match. He had no ticket, but is known to have attended two of

England's previous World Cup matches. Police said the two men sat opposite each other in the train. "Birch confessed to the killing during questioning by Grenoble police," a police spokesman said.

"He told detectives he was travelling on a train when he saw that the man sitting

opposite was smirking. He said he guessed the man was an Argentinian fan mocking him, so he waited until the train arrived at the next station, then stabbed him and ran away."

The victim died on the way to hospital.

Mr Birch succeeded in leaving the train at St-Andre-le-

Gaz. He evaded arrest until 11.30pm on Wednesday when he allegedly attacked the night porter at his hotel in Grenoble with a broken bottle. He managed to flee only a few hundred yards before he was apprehended. As police questioned him, they realised he matched the description of M Frachet's killer.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Complainants' files damaged in floods

Thousands of people in dispute with their solicitors over fees had their documents damaged when the Law Society's offices in Leamington Spa were flooded at Easter, causing £1.5 million worth of damage. A specialist salvage company is trying to restore files using freeze-drying techniques but its work will not be concluded for at least another month.

Complainants, many of whom have already been waiting for months for their grievances to be investigated, have been told to expect further severe delays. If they submitted original documents, without keeping copies, their cases may never be satisfactorily resolved. It is possible that such complainants will be compensated by the Law Society.

Weekend Money, page 60

### Downing Street denies leaks

The Government responded to criticism that it leaks policy changes to the press before giving details to Parliament. After the Tories said Labour had given "systematic briefings" to journalists on the Child Support Agency and the strategic defence review, Downing Street denied responsibility for the leaks and said that no ministers had briefed journalists.

### African arms man promoted

The Foreign Office official responsible for the department which was at the centre of the arms-for-Africa affair is to be the next Ambassador to Norway. Richard Dales, 55, currently director of Africa Command at the Foreign Office, will take up his Oslo appointment, which is regarded as a senior one, in September. He will succeed Mark Elliott, who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

### Legal aid reforms delayed

Plans to reform the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme, including an extension of "no win, no fee" work, will be delayed until the autumn as part of a wider reform to the legal system. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, told a London conference that further legal aid changes will include block contracts and tightening the "merits" test. Other legal reforms will curb restrictive practices on advocacy.

### Police Internet guide cut

A policeman's guide to the Internet has been censored after Home Office officials realised that criminals could use it to learn how to conceal their activities on the Internet. A chapter that might have helped someone starting up in cyber pornography or fraud has been cut from *Internet Detective*, published today by the Police Research Group. Only police forces will receive the full text.

## Paul Daniels's son jailed for insurance fraud

By MARK HENDERSON

THE son of the television magician Paul Daniels was jailed for 12 months yesterday for his part in a £10,000 motorcycle insurance fraud.

Paul Daniels junior, 37, who has a previous conviction for illegally attempting to sell pornography, sold worthless insurance policies to the value of £10,708 to 85 motorcyclists from his company, Bikeline Direct.

He had not been authorised to carry out insurance work and had made no arrangements to underwrite the business, making the certificates worthless.

Daniels, who ran the business from a council flat in Shoreditch, East London, had previously admitted four offences of procuring the execution of valuable securities by deception. He was sentenced to 12 months for each offence at Snaresbrook Crown Court to run concurrently. He also admitted conducting unauthorised insurance business.

Crispin Aylett, for the prosecution, told the court that Daniels advertised his fraudulent

insurance policies with flyers carrying a false company registration number, before the business was wound up by the Department of Trade and Industry in February 1996.

"Over a period of six months 85 motorcyclists were running around on motorbikes believing they were insured, but the insurance they had was worthless," Mr Aylett said.

Sentencing him, Judge Stephen Robbins said the crime was so serious he had no choice but to impose a prison term.

He said: "Although you were trying to set up a genuine business you soon became aware that it wouldn't work."

"You collected nearly £11,000 from 85 people, many of them motorcycle couriers at even a greater risk from accidents than other riders. When one of them questioned your authenticity you put up an elaborate and dishonest smokescreen, which was penetrated in interviews with the Department of Trade and Industry."

## Troops on alert

Continued from page 1

nationalist residents' leaders they consider beyond the pale.

"This seems to be the year they decided to break the Orangemen. But if they think that they are very mistaken. The parade has to go down the road," said Denis Watson, the Order's Armagh head.

Brendan McKenna, a former terrorist who is the residents' spokesman, insisted there could be no compromise unless the Orangemen agreed to direct talks. His appearance on a Thursday night Ulster Television programme was cut short after he blamed Orangemen for that day's arson attacks on ten Catholic churches. "McKenna's comments made what was already a minimal hope much worse," said one government official.

Mr Adams, who is thought to have only limited influence over Mr McKenna, appealed for calm but rebuked the Orange Order for refusing to meet residents. He said nationalist confidence in the peace process depended on the British Government upholding the Commission's ban.

The 1,500 Portadown Orangemen intend to remain at the Drumcree church for as long as it takes until they are allowed down the Garvaghy Road. Sources said the RUC planned to let the standoff continue indefinitely rather than use force. Hardline loyalists are threatening to stage protests and blockades throughout Northern Ireland.

Michael Gove, page 16  
March preparations, page 17

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# Russian chess prodigy, 14, comes in from the cold

Scholarship brings over girl from closed city to develop her talent at a British school, writes Victoria Fletcher

A YOUNG Russian chess prodigy who has rarely left her remote home city in the Urals has won the first Kasparov Chess Scholarship to attend an independent school in England.

Zhanna Lazhevskaya, 14, has been brought up in one of Russia's last closed cities, which has been out of bounds to outsiders since its creation as a nuclear reprocessing centre under Stalin. Barbed wire fences surround Grehgornij and nobody, even Russian relatives of inhabitants, is allowed in.

It was only during a visit to a Moscow chess camp run by Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, that her exceptional ability was noticed.

Zhanna is already the under-18 champion of the Urals and has been tipped by Kasparov to become a world player within years. Her remarkable chess performance combined with an outstanding academic record prompted Kasparov to choose her as the first Kasparov Scholar.

Graham Lee, the full-time chess teacher at Oakham, the £13,000-a-year school in Rutland that Zhanna will attend, said he thought she will be the third best player for her age in Britain. In two years, she will be able to represent the United Kingdom in international competitions if she chooses.

"I am delighted that Kasparov has come up with a girl, because not many girls play chess. She is also very academic, which is good," Mr Lee said.

The move from an isolated Russian city to England is likely to be tough for the quiet teenager. Zhanna comes from an extremely poor and sheltered background and, before last week, had never seen, let alone spoken to, a foreigner. Although Grehgornij is self-sufficient with its own schools, shops and hospitals, it has only glimpsed the changing Russian culture outside and she has been shocked by Britain's cosmopolitan lifestyle.

Like most of the 50,000 inhabitants of the town, both



Learning a very British game at her new school

her parents work in the local nuclear plant and she will not be able to afford to visit them more than once a year.

Speaking from the home of her cousin in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, where she is learning English, over the summer, Zhanna said: "I will miss my family very much. It will be strange being in such a different country but as long as I get a good education, that is what must matter."

Oakham School, which devotes an unusual amount of time to chess, agreed to fund a special scholarship for a gifted Russian player to attend the school after Kasparov visited last year. "My parents were surprised when I won the

scholarship and I was stunned.

"My state school in Russia does not have certain subjects like design. There are no sports facilities so I am very pleased at what Oakham will offer," she added.

Oakham has more than 1,000 pupils and facilities include a theatre, pool and rifle range.

Although fully funded by the school, small hidden costs of the scholarship have already caused problems for Zhanna.

A second-hand uniform used up all the money she was given by her family to have at school and her mother must now borrow in Russia to send her £3 a week to pay for such everyday essentials as tooth-paste.

There was resentment when I won the scholarship in Russia. It is not the done thing," Zhanna said.

"We needed money to fly to England and asked the factory for sponsorship but they said 'Why is your child so much better than mine, going abroad to school. If we get no money why should you?' So all our savings paid for the flight.

"Perhaps if I win some chess tournaments then I would win some money, but we must see," she added.

Apart from chess, Zhanna loves history, tennis and football. Larisa Evison, her cousin, said: "She watches it all the time, I have to turn the television off. She knows all the players, all the teams and how they play and loves to watch the World Cup." Zhanna hopes to play in a football team when she starts at the school in September.



Zhanna Lazhevskaya at Oakham: until last week she had rarely left her home city and had not met a foreigner

# Robber handcuffs bank chief to hoax bomb

By Stewart Tendler  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A BARCLAYS bank manager was treated for shock yesterday after a robber threatened to turn him into a human bomb and left him handcuffed with a hoax device fixed to his wrist.

Alex Humphries had one device on his wrist, and a second was planted in a box in his office as the robber fled with thousands of pounds from the bank in Battersea, south London.

After the alarm was raised police closed roads and evacuated shops near the bank. Mr Humphries was eventually freed when a police explosives expert decided the devices were fake.

He was treated by paramedics at the scene but police could not remove the handcuffs. A fire crew cut them off while he was making a statement to detectives at a nearby police station.

Last night as Flying Squad officers launched a hunt for the robber and Barclays offered a £15,000 reward, Scotland Yard said that the attack is thought to be unique. Other robbers have planted hoax devices but none has ever attached one to a bank manager or victim.

Mr Humphries, who is believed to be in his late twenties or early thirties, has been at the bank for about a year. Yesterday he was in his office when the robber struck just before 10am. The office in the small branch opens directly on to a hallway and has no special protection.

The robber strode into the bank past customers at the cashiers and straight into the manager's office. He was wearing dark glasses, a blue hat and a long leather coat and told the manager that he was carrying a bomb.

Then he handcuffed Mr Humphries to one of the devices and dragged him out in front of the staff and customers and demanded that they hand over cash. He grabbed the money and fled as the staff sounded the alarm.

Charlene Gallagher, who works opposite the bank in Battersea Park Road, said that she saw the cashiers leave.

"They were all very calm and then I saw police running and closing off the road. They asked us to close the shutters and move out because they said there was a bomb scare."

Another local shopworker, Norah Schofield, said: "I've never seen anything like it. It was hard to believe this was happening in London."

# Lost in faraway, savage isle of Britain

By Peter Birkett

HE HAD been a magistrate for 11 years, but Jay Warren had never before entered a courthouse or heard a single case.

So the magistrate and chief citizen on Pictairn Island, the world's tiniest and most remote community of just 43 souls, was less than comfortable as he sat in on a morning court session at Maidstone, Kent. A series of drunks, thugs, petty thieves and misdemeanour motorists filed in and out of the dock on the conveyor belt of justice that is a British provincial magistrates' court.

Mr Warren said: "I simply had not expected to see so many people accused of so many things. It is outside my experience."

He had been invited to sit in by Gail Cox, the Kent police-

woman he befriended last year when she spent 2½ months seconded to Pictairn to teach modern policing techniques to the island's only constable. This is Mr Warren's first visit to Britain and only the third time he had left the tiny two-mile long, mile-wide British dependency where Fletcher Christian and his fellow *Bounty* mutineers landed in 1790.

Before entering Court No 1 in the old ragstone courthouse, he had been greeted by the Rev Paul Gibbons, deputy chairman of the magistrates, who said: "I looked up Pictairn in the atlas. I have to say that it is a very tiny dot."

A tiny and a very peaceful dot, thought Mr Warren: "You see, we have no crime. We have a building which used to be called The Court-



Warren: no crime for him back on Pictairn

house, but the island council has changed its name to the Public Hall because as long as anyone can remember there haven't been any court hearings. Sure we've got a jail — two cells, one of which is used as a storeroom. We keep the other one ready for a

prisoner but in my lifetime it hasn't been used."

Things were very different at Maidstone. Mr Warren listened as the court clerk Sandra Leach called up a man arrested at the weekend for being drunk and disorderly. On Pictairn a few years ago, they also had a drink problem, so the island council banned all alcohol for a while. Now you need a special licence to import liquor and if anyone gets drunk, it is in the privacy of their homes.

"We have no pubs, no restaurants so drinking is not normally a problem," said Mr Warren. "We did have one French Navy brought some booze in a couple of years ago, but I let him sleep it off. Now visiting ships are barred from allowing drink ashore without my permission."

Driving while disqualified followed on the list, adjourned for seven days. In Pictairn there are no cars, only a handful of quadbikes for the mud tracks that serve as roads, and certainly no disqualifications, which were an alien concept to Mr Warren.

The next case was an 18-year-old on a theft charge. Mr Warren, who is also the island's council chairman, its engineer, its conservation officer, quarantine officer and who will soon become its Customs officer too, watched with particular interest because this was the first alleged thief he'd ever seen.

He is in Britain until September, taking a course on horticulture at Kew. The highlight of his trip is likely to be a Buckingham Palace garden party although, he says, the morning at Maidstone will run fairly close.

# Doctor jailed for stealing savings from patient, 87

By A Correspondent

A DOCTOR who stole an elderly patient's savings to help to pay off his debts at Harrods was yesterday jailed for 2½ years. Paul Robertson was convicted of swindling 87-year-old Sam Maggs out of £15,000.

The court was told that Robertson, 62, persuaded the partially sighted Mr Maggs to part with the money by promising to invest it in a higher interest account. But Robertson used the money to help to pay off debts of about £270,000.

Southampton Crown Court heard that, when he approached Mr Maggs, a patient of 30 years, in November 1993, Robertson was living beyond his means. He had

taken out a £90,000 mortgage and a £44,000 loan to extend the surgery he ran single-handedly in Totton, near Southampton. He had also run up other debts, including £7,500 on home furnishings at Harrods.

Sentencing Robertson, Judge David L. Griffiths told him that, as Mr Maggs's doctor, he "was in a position of great trust". He said: "He trusted you completely as a friend and you took advantage of your professional relationship and that friendship. You also took advantage of a man who, as you well knew, was old, frail and partially blind."

"You deprived Mr Maggs of the bulk of the money which was left to him. You said to Mr

Maggs you would invest it in a special account which would bear extra interest. But by the jury's verdict you had no intention of doing so.

"The sum of money may not be large in comparison with your debts but to Mr Maggs it was a very considerable sum. You had your income as a GP, you live in a large and valuable house but it seems clear you failed to match your expenditure to your income. Up until your conviction you made no attempt to repay the money. You have not shown any remorse."

The Southampton and South West Hampshire Health Authority has referred the case to the General Medical Council.

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Read what happened when the cold warrior met the draft-dodger. Revealed tomorrow in News Review

THE SUNDAYTIMES THE SUNDAY PAPERS

# Scientists find gene that keeps chickens free of salmonella

Research offers hope of disease-free flocks and fall in food-poisoning cases, reports Michael Hornsby

SCIENTISTS have identified the gene in chickens that makes some birds resistant to salmonella, the bacterium responsible for tens of thousands of human food poisoning cases every year.

The advance could lead to the elimination of salmonella in eggs, which has proved one of the most intractable public health problems since being highlighted a decade ago by Edwina Currie, the former Health Minister.

Researchers at the Institute for Animal Health at Compton, Berkshire, say that in a few years it should be possible for commercial breeders to identify chickens with the gene by a simple blood test. They could then breed disease-free flocks from these birds.

Phil Jones, head of microbiology at the institute, said: "We are on the brink of potentially controlling salmonellosis,

which would improve food safety and reduce the loss of valuable stock."

The salmonella-resistant gene is thought to be present in about 10 per cent of commercial chickens. "The gene increases the bacteria-killing powers of macrophages, large cells that form part of the chickens' immune system," Nat Burnstead, head of avian genetics at the institute, said. "We are working on a way of identifying the DNA markers for the gene. Within a few years breeders should be able to identify resistant birds by taking a small blood sample and having it analysed, either in their own laboratories or by specialist companies."

One in every 600 to 700 eggs is still contaminated by salmonella, about the same level as ten years ago, despite the slaughter by the Government since 1989 of 3.7 million birds



Millions of chickens have been slaughtered since 1989 but flocks remain infected

in infected flocks at a cost to the taxpayer of £8.5 million in compensation to farmers.

Properly cooking eggs should kill the bacteria. The highest risk comes from food made from raw eggs, such as

mayonnaise. Last year 32,000 cases of salmonella poisoning were reported in England and Wales, 48 of them fatal.

"Salmonella can also lurk in the guts of chickens, without causing them any harm or

passing into the eggs, but can give rise to contamination of the surface of the carcass during processing," Dr Burnstead said. "It may prove harder to identify genes to prevent this kind of infection."

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Breast screening units reveal fears

Shortages of money and manpower are threatening the quality of the breast screening service, a survey by the Royal College of Radiologists has shown. It reveals low morale, many unfilled posts, and a fear of litigation, as well as the conviction by more than half those questioned that present funding is inadequate to meet quality standards.

The survey represents the views of 73 radiologists who responded to a questionnaire sent out by the college to the leading radiologist in each of the 108 breast screening units in Britain. The vast majority of respondents came from units in England. Three quarters of the respondents said that they had had difficulty with funding at some time, and 57 per cent said that funding was at present inadequate to meet quality standards.

More than a quarter of the units said that they had been involved in litigation, almost all from women whose cancers had not been detected by screening early enough.

## Scots football fan dies

A Scottish football fan, Harry Cook, 32, has died from legionnaires' disease after attending the World Cup. Three other supporters, one of them English, are ill and doctors are trying to establish a link between the four men, who do not know each other but who travelled through Paris in early June. Three attended the Scotland v Brazil game but otherwise no common factor has been identified, according to the Department of Health.

## False-memory verdict

A father accused of abusing his daughter for more than a decade was cleared of all charges at Preston Crown Court after saying that she was suffering from false-memory syndrome. The man, aged 52, from Crawley, West Sussex, denied 13 charges including rape and indecent assault. He told the jury that he believed that counsellors had suggested to his now grown-up daughter that she had been abused.

## Tobacco giants' plea

British American Tobacco, Gallaher, Imperial and Rothmans urged a High Court judge to quash a critical report by the Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health on the grounds that it was unscientific and defamatory. It recommends a ban on tobacco advertising and smoking in public places. The companies fear its adoption will seriously damage the industry in Britain. Mr Justice Moses will give his ruling on Monday.

## Domestic assault curbed

Harriet Harman will today promise a national strategy to help women victims of domestic violence, describing the problem as "one of the most profound and corrosive" affecting society. The Social Security Secretary will unveil plans for a conference later this year at which local authorities will be invited to explain how they help victims. She has already written to all councils and chief constables asking for details of their policies.

## Beer is sent back

Eight million cans and bottles of beer are being recalled after a coolant leak at Bass's Cape Hill plant in Birmingham. The brewer said that cans of Carling Premier, Caffrey's Irish Ale and Worthington Draught Bitter, cans and bottles of Carling Lager and bottles of Tennent's Gold Beer, with the letters F, G, H, J, K, L or M after the best-before date, should be returned to shops for a refund. No illness has been reported.

## Shepard sketch sold

A pencil sketch by E.H. Shepard for the front cover of *Wind in the Willows*, by Kenneth Grahame, made £5,290 at Christie's of South Kensington, London. It was among five lots of drawings for the book from the estate of the artist which made a total of £17,848. Shepard, a prolific illustrator of children's books, died in 1976. A cover illustration for *Dream Days*, written by Grahame in 1930, also made £5,290.

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# Christie defeats drug threat to reputation

Claudia Joseph and Richard Duce on how sprinter must pay for justice

LINFORD CHRISTIE paid a high price yesterday for clearing his name against a magazine claim that his success must have come from performance-enhancing drugs. A libel jury cleared the former captain of the British Olympic Athletics Team, but the legal costs will leave him out of pocket.

After the High Court verdict, Christie said that his principal aim had been to show his innocence, and added: "I am living proof that success achieved after hard, natural, drug-free work lasts so much longer and is so much sweeter."

Christie is likely to be about £50,000 out of pocket, as well as having to wait for his own £200,000 costs which he must claim from John McVicar, the former gangland criminal who wrote the article for the now-defunct satirical magazine *Spiked*. Before the case, Christie rejected a £2,500 settlement offer from one of the magazine's distributors, Johnsons News Limited, who cannot be held liable for more than £2,500 of the damages bill.

After the jury agreed that the sprinter had been libelled, the 14-day action concluded suddenly with a deal between Christie and McVicar. Wiltshire Bristol, the printers, and



John McVicar: cast doubt on achievements

both WH Smith Limited and Johnsons News Limited, the distributors, Christie accepted a total of £40,000 damages against the three companies but Mr McVicar is to pay no damages. Christie also accepted costs of £26,000 from the firms. However, he must pay his own legal costs estimated at £200,000 before trying to recoup them from Mr McVicar. It leaves him with a paper shortfall of at least

£49,000. Malcolm Pearce, chairman of Johnsons News Limited, said: "This is going to stop plaintiffs playing the libel lottery game. I don't think they will be inclined in future to take distributors to court for expensive costs."

However, the verdict vindicated Britain's greatest sprinter who was appointed OBE just before the trial, and will enable the athletics community to breathe a collective sigh

of relief. The article was headlined 'How Did Linford Get This Good?' and threatened to have serious repercussions within the international athletics community as Mr McVicar, 58, of Battersea, southwest London, suggested that athletics was awash with drugs.

Mr McVicar claimed that Christie could have achieved his success only with drugs and pointed to his increase in weight from a "bean-pole" to a 15st "powerhouse", his leap from 15th to 4th in world rankings and his triumphs at an age when he should have been in decline.

He wrote: "His remarkable physique in regard to both bulk and definition is consistent with the use of anabolic steroids."

But he took on the wrong adversary in Christie, who is a vociferous campaigner against drugs and famously hostile to the press. He has taken part in several anti-drug campaigns and last year during the World Athletic Championships in Athens, called for the International Amateur Athletic Federation to instigate a life-long ban for athletes who failed their drug tests instead of reducing it from four to two years.

Christie, who retired last summer after winning 23 ma-



Linford Christie after his libel victory yesterday. "I am proof that drug-free success lasts longer," he said.

je titles, said he had built up his shoulders through diet and training. Christie, who lives with his girlfriend Mandy Miller, in Twickenham, southwest London, told the court: "I was in the gym three to four times a week, three and sometimes five hours a day, working on my top half. All the coaches say it, the faster you move your arms, the faster your legs will go."

Patrick Maloney, for Chris-

tie, Maloney told the court that the "very serious untrue and damaging" allegations by McVicar against Britain's greatest sprinter was the most serious anyone could make up about a professional sportsman: "If they were true, his whole life and his whole career would be a sham. All the honours he has achieved would be worth nothing." Christie had been tested more than 100 times, and nearly

tested positive only once, during the 1988 Seoul Olympics when pseudo-ephedrine from ginseng, a legal health supplement, was found in his urine, he said.

Dr David Black, a forensic scientist from Nashville, Tennessee, insisted it was a "virtual impossibility" for Christie to have tested negative 100 times if he had been using drugs. Mr McVicar outlined some of the sprinter's four-letter

outbursts at the peak of his profession, which he blamed on steroids and called "roid rage". But Christie said: "All sports people are aggressive. I just happen to voice my opinions on things I feel strongly about."

After the case, Christie refused to answer questions about the financial outcome but insisted: "I am very happy. It's a great deal for British athletics."

# Woman is jailed for plot to have gay lover killed

By PAUL WILKINSON

A HITMAN hired by a woman to kill her lesbian lover turned out to be an undercover detective.

Pauline Routledge, 37, admitted soliciting a man to kill Gina Woodall, whom she had met in June 1995. Leeds Crown Court was told. Routledge, a bank mortgage adviser, eventually left her husband to move in with Miss Woodall, now 26.

The pair had a tempestuous relationship that broke up more than once. After a row in February, Routledge began to plan to have her lover killed. She was put in touch with a man called Rob, who was an undercover policeman, Michael Smith, for the prosecution, said. Rob had been tipped off by a man whom Routledge had approached to carry out a murder.

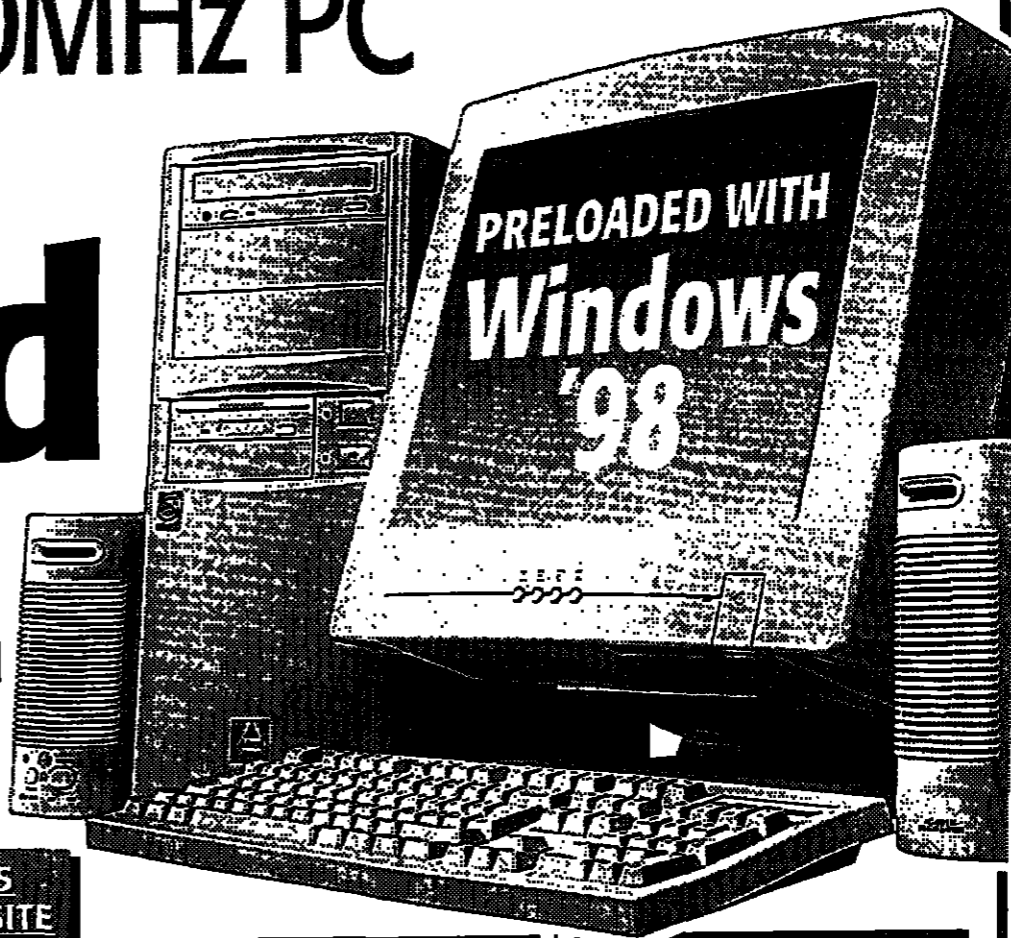
Routledge told Rob: "I want it so she doesn't turn up

again." She agreed to pay £2,000 before the killing and another £2,000 afterwards. Days later he telephoned and said: "The problem has been sorted out". Minutes after she handed over the second instalment she was arrested. Sean Morris, for the defence, said that Routledge had been suffering from chronic depression. He said her recollection of the events was hazy because she was drinking a lot at the time and taking anti-depressants.

Mr Morris said that Routledge had written to Miss Woodall from jail while awaiting trial and had been forgiven in reply.

Judge Norman Jones, QC, jailing Routledge for four years, told her that her behaviour had been "dangerous and wicked" and that, had she not admitted the offence, she would have been jailed for seven years.

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# Gays urged to buy £50 shares to save festival

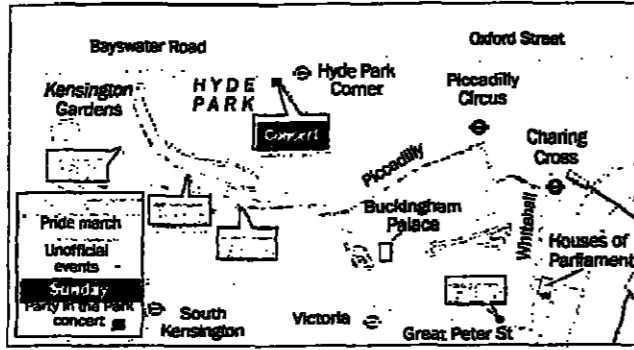
By DOMINIC KENNEDY

GAYS marching in London today are to be asked to buy £50 shares as part of a rescue package designed to save the biggest gay and lesbian festival in Europe.

Organisers have already had to postpone the gay pride festival which traditionally follows the march because of a cash shortage. The march through London today could be the last to be held under the equality banner. Many believe that the event has become a victim of its own success, poor organisation and over-commercialisation.

Last year's festival attracted an unwieldy 250,000 people to Clapham Common, made £400,000 in sponsorship and donations but still lost £160,000, including £7,000 worth of borrowed wheelchairs that vanished.

This year, the thousands of participants have been left with nothing officially to do when the parade finishes, after the last-minute post-



ponement of the afternoon festival on Clapham Common, starring Dana International, the transsexual Israeli winner of the Eurovision Song Contest. The festival will be held on August 15, but it is unclear whether Dana will be there.

This year's organisers, Pride Events UK — helped by Mishoon de Ruyz, the lawyers, Harvey Goldsmith, the Live Aid promoter, and Stonewall, the equality lobbyists — have put together a rescue plan involving the creation of a community-owned organis-

ation to run the festival. Businesses such as media companies and rock promoters would be allowed to buy large stakes, but there would be a cap on shareholdings to prevent a commercial takeover. Gays will be encouraged to buy shares for between £10 and £50.

A trust will receive 30 per cent of profits, to be donated to gay causes such as education, welfare and the arts.

The event, which began with a rally of 800 gay liberation militants in Hyde Park in 1972, has broadened

to such an extent that this year it is called Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride. Organisers are considering changing its name to Pride Celebrating Diversity, a slogan broad enough to include every sexual taste (including heterosexuality), and turning it into a week-long festival.

Pride Events put £5 tickets for the festival on sale through homosexual pubs and clubs to ensure a mainly gay attendance and to limit the numbers to 100,000. London Underground feared that Tube stations were unable to cope with more. Only a third of the tickets were sold, leaving the organisers unable to foot the increased bill from Lambeth Council, which is still owed money from last year.

The march assembles today by Prince of Wales' Gate, South Carriage Drive, Hyde Park, London, at 11am and begins at noon. The parade is expected to end at 2.30pm.

Leading article, page 21



Tina Arena, the Australian pop singer, will perform at Hyde Park tomorrow

## All Saints put in spot of practice for Prince

ALL SAINTS, the all-girl pop group, will perform its first proper concert tonight at a gay pride party and its second tomorrow in front of the heir to the throne.

The group made its official debut at the G8 conference in Birmingham watched by President Clinton, but tonight's appearance at the Astoria ballroom in West London will be the first that is open to the public. The group is using the event as a warm-up for its headline appearance at Party In The Park, Hyde Park's biggest pop event for 20 years, which will raise money for the Prince's Trust.

The set tomorrow has been delayed by four hours to 6pm, leading to speculation that Prince William and Prince Harry will attend. The Prince of Wales is playing polo in the afternoon but will be in the park in time to hear All Saints.

Tina Arena, the Australian pop singer, will also perform at Hyde Park — her first concert on a British stage.

## Farmer keeps 'love' plant under wraps

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A FARMER cultivating root of ginseng believes that he will be the first in Britain to harvest on a large commercial scale the Oriental plant credited with aphrodisiac qualities.

Ginseng has been part of Chinese medicine for 4,000 years and is claimed to help everything from blood pressure to liver function. Almost all the ginseng consumed in Britain comes from the Far East or North America.

But over the past four years, Simon Tunnard has nurtured a crop that he has grown from seed under a vast canopy covering two acres of his

Bedfordshire land. The canopy, about seven feet above the soil, is partly to keep prying eyes from his secret but also part of the curious cultivation method.

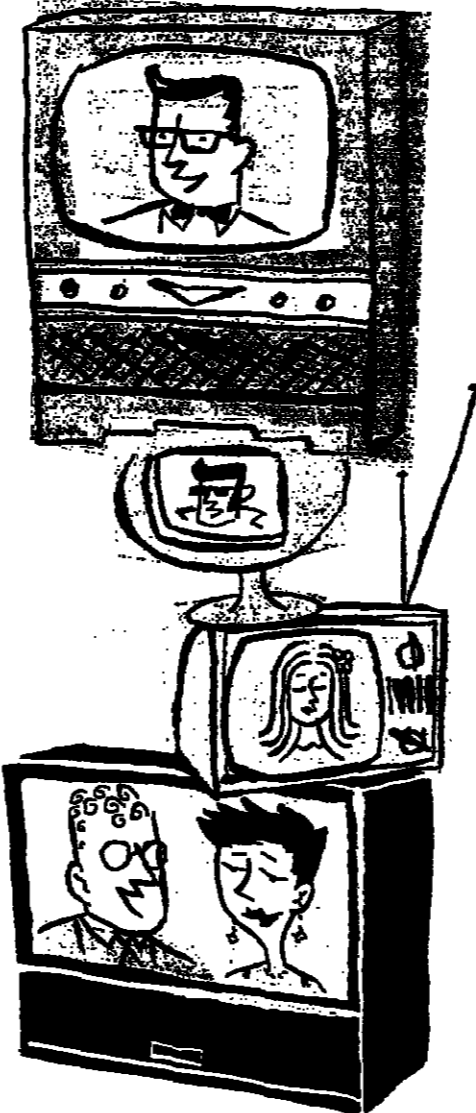
"In the wild, it grows in forests. So to cultivate it, you have to simulate the forest cover and leaves," said Mr Tunnard, 32, of Biggleswade.

Four years ago, his 300-acre farm was growing traditional crops such as rape and wheat. "Crop prices were dropping and I just knew I had to find something different. It was pointless getting into carrots or potatoes," he said.

He expects others to try their hand at growing a root that can fetch up to £20 a lb. The mature 18in plant produces modest white flowers but a spectacular seed pod which resembles a crimson golf ball.

The Royal Horticultural Society in London said that it was aware only of a Scottish nursery growing ginseng commercially, for gardens.

As for the supposed aphrodisiac qualities, Mr Tunnard is keeping an open mind. "If you are healthier because you consume ginseng, then probably you are sexier," he said.



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TOYOTA RAV 4 FREESPORT

# Powerboat circles the world in record time

By LIN JENKINS

A BRITISH powerboat crewed mostly by armchair adventurers and amateurs yesterday broke the 38-year-old record for voyaging around the world. The 14-strong crew took 74 days, 20 hours and 58 minutes, beating by eight days the time set by the American submarine *USS Triton* in a defiant military exercise at the height of the Cold War.

Amid wild celebration, the £2 million *Cable & Wireless Adventurer* arrived back at her starting point in Gibraltar. Back on dry land again, Jock Wishart, 46, the project leader, announced: "I'm mentally drained but this has been an amazing achievement."

Built in Southampton, the monohull powerboat set off on a 26,000-mile journey on April 19. Until the boat designer Nigel Trens came up with the revolutionary 115ft stabilised monohull, powerboats had been incapable of crossing large expanses of ocean without refuelling.

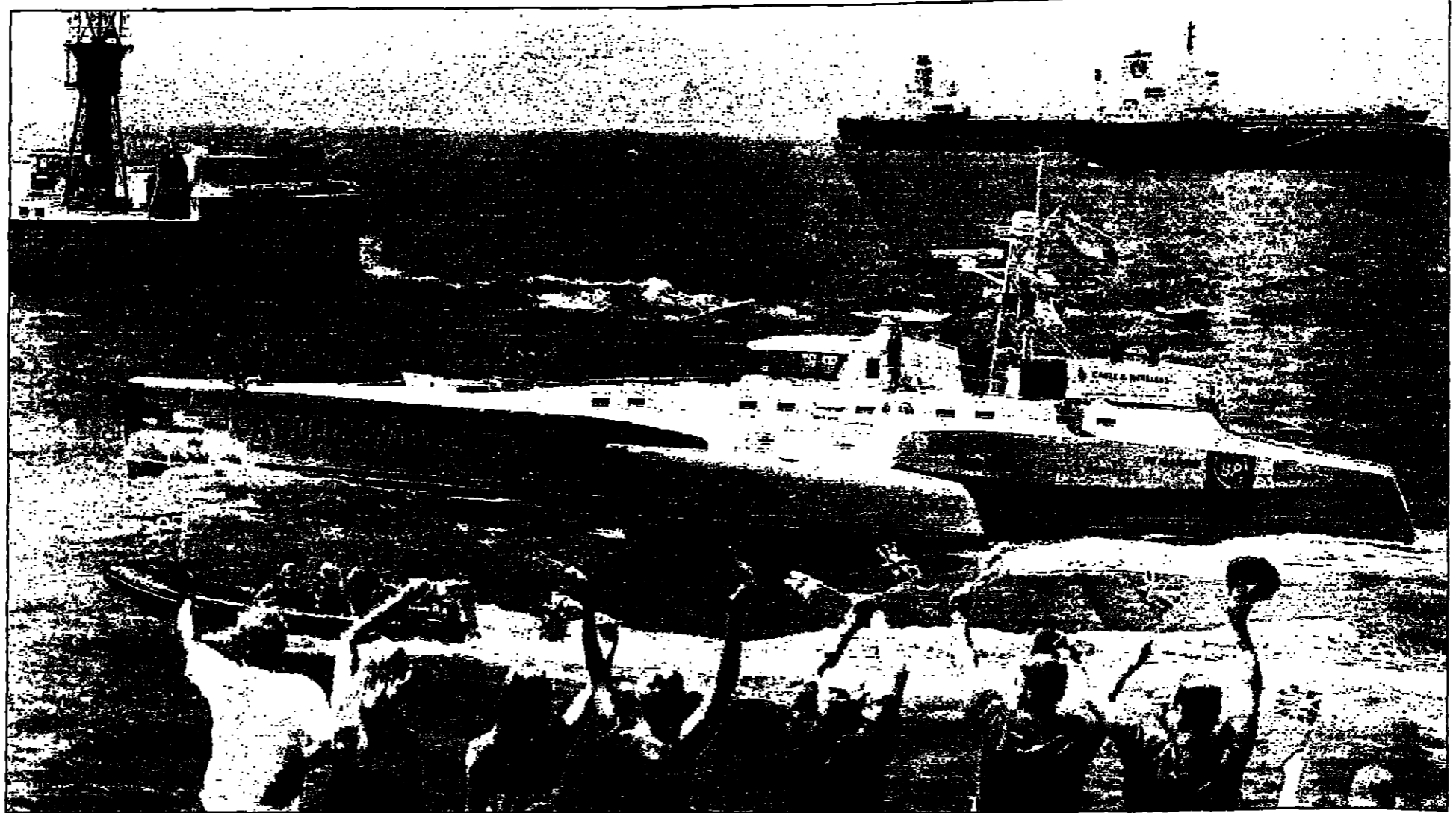
The crew, who included a

60-year-old grandfather and a 22-year-old student, had had to do running repairs to the vessel during the voyage as well as coping with high temperatures and bad weather in the Mediterranean and Atlantic. They visited 13 ports in 11 countries.

Under skipper Ian Bosworth, 53, from Falmouth, the crew comprised nine who paid for their passage and had to undergo specially formulated psychometric and physical tests. Mr Wishart said for that reason there was not one major falling out on the trip, simply the odd squabble.

"You would think you would get bored on such a journey, but we all found it very wearing. The odd motion of the boat makes the muscles ache, the sound of the engines is wearing and you sleep for nine or ten hours and still feel tired because it is not quality sleep. It was as much a technical exercise in fuel efficiency as a physical one."

However, there was disqui-



The *Adventurer* crossing the line at Gibraltar yesterday 74 days after she set off, beating by eight days the record set in 1960 by the American submarine *USS Triton*

et among those novices who paid for their places aboard. Last night some called the race a sham because they could have easily beaten the record by 15 to 20 days had they not been held up by the demands of publicity. They claim that on several occasions they were

stalled outside ports while television cameras and local dignitaries were prepared and the champagne put on ice.

Dr Melinda Bracknell, 31, from Jersey, had complained during the trip: "We could have broken the record by 15 or 20 days quite easily, but we

have been told to slow down or wait outside ports because the television cameras, dignitaries and champagne receptions were not ready. Some people have paid a lot of money to be part of something they thought they could be proud of, but it has turned into a

farce." George Cook, one of the public relations team in Gibraltar, said yesterday that those views had been prompted by "a partner in port and a wish to get there quickly when the boat was forced to remain in the channel". There was no mutiny and all of the 16 strong

crew were happy that they had been part of the record-setting trip.

The boat stopped at 14 refuelling points and, in accordance with the rules set for the record, passed through the Suez and Panama canals. *Adventurer* called at Monte

Carlo, Port Said, the Maldives, Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo before crossing the Pacific to Honolulu. The boat stopped at San Diego then passed through the Panama Canal and on to Jamaica, Miami and New York before crossing the Atlantic.

## Voyage ends for woman who inspired *Swallows and Amazons*

By PAUL WILKINSON



Mavis, on the lap of a nanny, boating with her sisters

THE artist Mavis Altounyan, who as a child inspired the character of Titty in Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*, has died at the age of 78.

Ransome met her and her brother and sisters, who became the models of his four adventurous youngsters, during a holiday with their grandparents near Coniston in the Lake District 70 years ago this summer. Their exploits with Ransome around the lake that year spawned the series of children's books of fresh-air

adventures. Ransome even borrowed her family nickname of Titty for his character, earned for her affection for Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Mrs Tittlemouse*. She told friends later that she did not see herself as "anything like so good or clever" as the fictional Titty. "I felt very inferior indeed, but it was my name."

The winter after the visit, as the children returned to their father's home in Syria, they presented Ransome with a pair of red Turkish slippers. Ransome was so delighted that when the book was published in 1930 he added

the dedication: "For the six for whom it was written in exchange for a pair of slippers."

At one point Ransome, whose own marriage had failed and who had lost contact with his daughter Tabitha, asked the children's father if he could adopt them. But as the children became adults, Ransome grew away from them and petulantly removed his dedication from later editions of *Swallows and Amazons*.

Yesterday Brigit Sanders, Titty's youngest sister, who is president of the Arthur Ransome Society, said she was the liveliest

of the children. "She had a special relationship with Arthur Ransome because she was so imaginative. She was very fond of him when she was a child."

Ms Altounyan was born in Syria. Her mother, Dora, was the daughter of Ransome's writer friend William Collingwood. She was educated in England, studying at the Chelsea School of Art under Henry Moore. In 1954 she married Melkon Guzelian and made their home in the Lake District, later moving to Bradford in West Yorkshire to be closer to their son and daughter.



Mavis Altounyan

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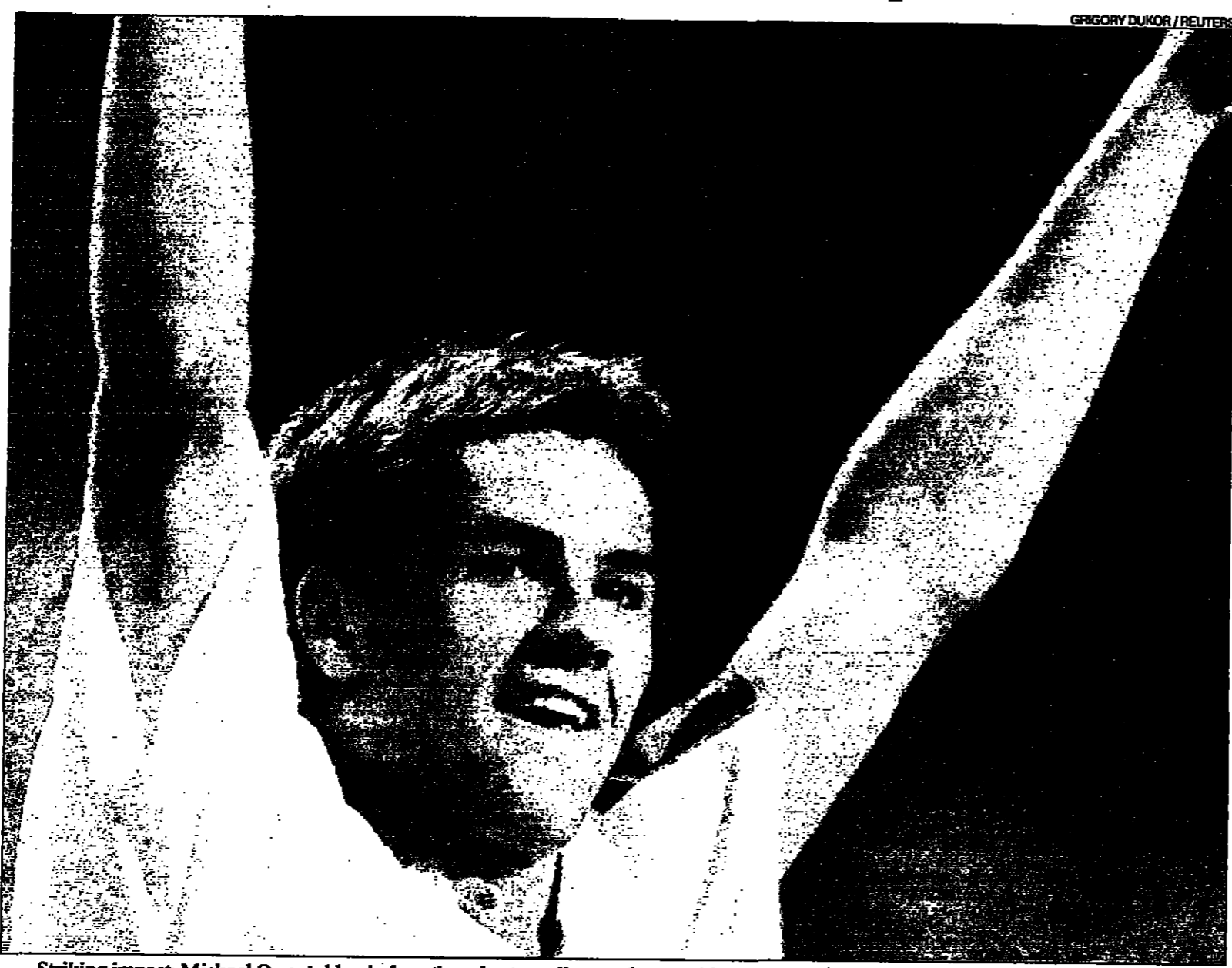
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# Owen faces wide open goal of vast riches

The 18-year-old star is a winner for advertisers in the youth market, reports Kevin McCarra



Striking impact: Michael Owen's blend of youth and extraordinary talent put him in a prime position to create "virtually a new market"

ENGLAND may be out of the World Cup but Michael Owen is about to conquer the planet. Although he and the rest of the squad returned home after Tuesday's defeat, the memories of his performance have taken root in France and, thanks to television, most other countries. No English footballer has achieved such celebrity since Paul Gascoigne, and Owen required neither tears nor misdemeanours to make his mark. The 18-year-old Liverpool player has given the lie to the dictum that history is written by the victors. *L'Equipe*, the sports newspaper of France, chose for its front-page image on Wednesday morning the penalty that David Batty missed for England nor the one that Roberto Ayala converted to clinch the win for Argentina. The space was given to a photograph of one of the many occasions on which Owen outran the defence. In sport, fame is now indivisible from fortune. A contract with the sportswear company Umbro, signed before the World Cup began, had already ensured that he would become a millionaire and vast wealth is virtually certain for Owen. A covetous attitude towards him was apparent in the nickname of *Baby-gol*, conferred upon him by *Gazzetta dello Sport*, the Italian sports newspaper. Owen was thus placed in the same lineage as Gabriel Batistuta, the prolific Argentine forward who is affectionately called *Batigol* by supporters of Fiorentina, the club for which he plays. *Gazzetta dello Sport*, intentionally or otherwise, had implanted a subliminal message to its readers: Owen, like Batistuta, should be taking up a role in Italian football. Troublingly for Liverpool supporters, it is an assumption that insinuates itself into British minds too. Paul Merson, another member of the England squad, has already mused on the topic of Italian clubs offering a blank cheque for Owen's services. A transfer record will be set in a few weeks' time when Denilson, a Brazilian, joins Real Betis of Spain for £22 million. There is no indication that Liverpool are prepared to sell Owen or that he wants to move, but he could one day eclipse that fee. The emergence of such a gifted performer comes as a shock to his countrymen. The

## Golden boy waits as prospectors stake their claim

**BY MATT DICKINSON**  
THE offers are flooding in faster than Michael Owen can run. Endorsements, commercial deals, lucrative moves to foreign clubs — the England striker's earning power knows no bounds. What does a young boy do? According to Mark McCormack, head of IMG and one of the world's leading sports agents, he cashes in as fast as possible. "One thing I would advise him against is putting off the business of making really serious money to concentrate exclusively on his game," he said. It is a sentiment that is unlikely to be echoed by Tony Stephens, the man who, as Owen's agent, now sits atop the largest gold mine in British sport. He has meticulously guided David Platt and Alan Shearer through their uncontroversial careers and, as adviser to David Beckham, organised the apology from the Manchester United player after his sending off in the World Cup. His handling of Owen has, until now, been typically measured and restrained and, despite the 18-year-old's spectacular impact on the global game, is likely to remain so for the immediate future. In the build-up to the World Cup there was easy money to be made. These included an offer of £75,000 from a national newspaper for Owen's thoughts on the tournament. It was politely declined. "We want Michael free to think about his football," Mr Stephens said. It is a philosophy supported by Umbro, one of the two companies that Owen endorses. "It will remain softy, softly," Martin Prothero, its sports marketing director, said. "The secret is to use his image and profile without making demands on his time. That way he can concentrate on his game while we get on with our job." With just one deal from the watch company Tissot in addition to his Umbro agreement worth £5 million over six years, Owen is now certain to put his name to more commercial contracts. What is highly unlikely is that he will march into Anfield and demand a move from Liverpool to one of the countless European giants who are trying to lure him. Owen spent this week playing golf with Terry, his father and mentor, and beating his brothers and sisters at table tennis. It is too soon for him to fly the nest.

the Spanish sports newspaper, proclaimed the tournament had no king now Owen had been dethroned by England's defeat. In all of this, of course, there is excessive reaction to a teenager who has completed only one full season in senior football. The hullabaloo can be attributed, in part, to the fact that Owen is unmarked by experience. There have been no scandals and the forward is yet to win a single trophy with Liverpool. He is a blank screen on which others can project their fantasies. The French newspaper *Le Monde* was thus able to present him as a figure who could redeem the image of English football, which has been tarnished by drunk and violent supporters. The Argentine newspaper *Olé* associated him with chivalrous notions of English fair play, noting that Owen was "a little gentleman" who did not retaliate despite the provocation of rough challenges. That accolade was far-fetched, since Owen has already been sent off twice in his fledgling career, but it indicated the impact that fresh talent has. His youth will make him attractive to major companies, who have already found football an excellent means of marketing their products. "The influx of money into the game has come because businesses learnt that they could use football to reach an audience of 25 to 40-year-olds who watch games on television and

**ON S'EN SOUVIENDRA**

**The continental press hailed Owen's arrival**

Premiership has built its formidable strength by absorbing foreign signings, rather in the manner of an athlete putting himself on an illicit course of steroids. Recent player of the year awards have gone to the Arsenal forward Dennis Bergkamp, a Dutchman, and the Chelsea forward Gianfranco Zola, an Italian. It was a welcome surprise to be reminded by Owen that excellence can appear in this country without there being an adverse effect on the balance of payments. The former France international Maxim Bossis was impressed most of all by Owen's nerve. Pele termed him "the great player of the World Cup so far." As

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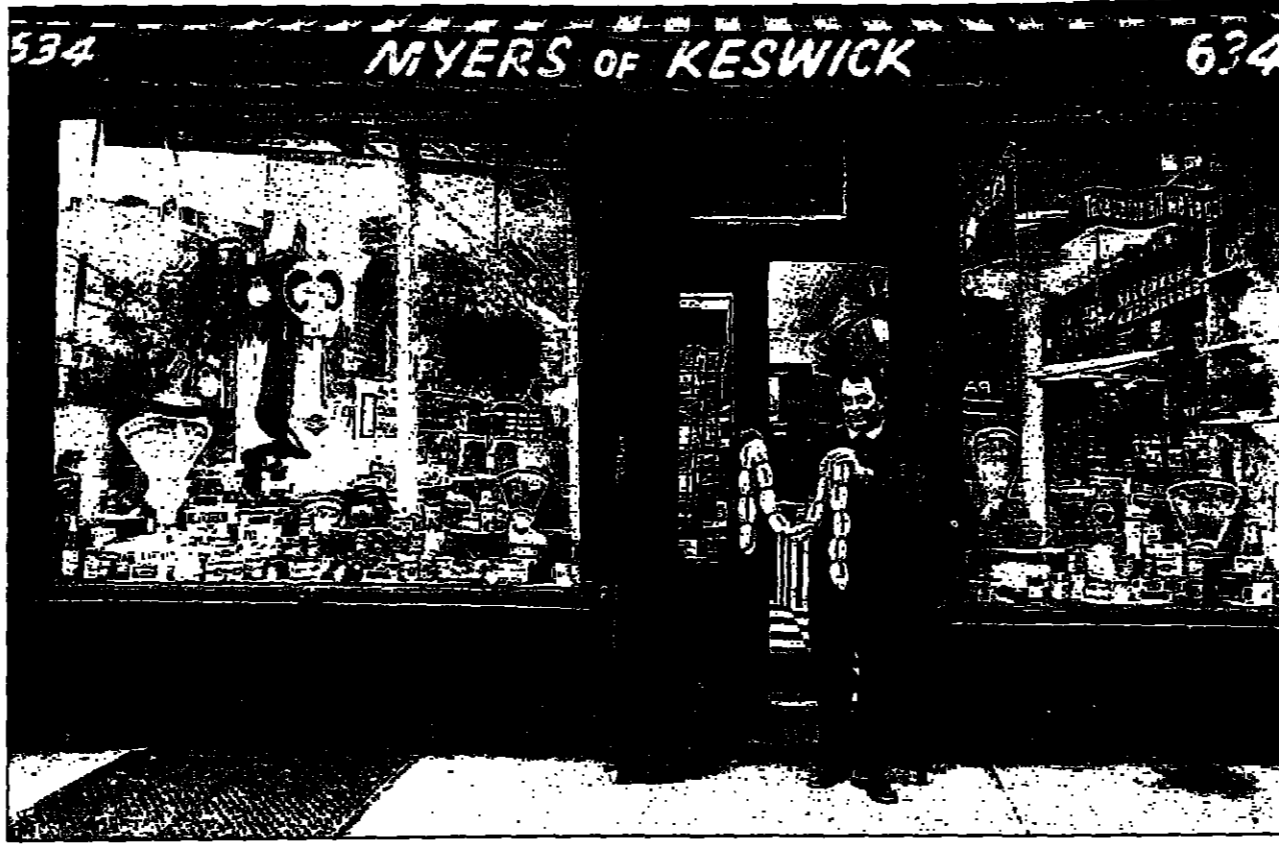
## JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



PETER MYERS has just lost up a further half dozen for the Naomi Campbell as a customer. Mr Myers came to New York for a two-week holiday and stayed for a quarter of a century. At first, he ran a British pub called the Bells of Hell, but he and his mates missed British food so much that 13 years ago he decided to start a New York version of his family's former butcher's shop in Station Street, Keswick.

His shelves are stocked with imported Bovril, Birds Custard and mushy peas (a favourite of Liverpudlians). The top-sellers, by far, are Heinz Baked Beans, which are noticeably sweeter than the American equivalent. "It is the characteristic of Myers of Keswick customers that they say the baked beans just don't taste the same in America," Mr Myers says. "I must hear it once a day."

The affable grocer got into hot water when she visited his shop recently in search of her favourite Ribena and Cadbury's Flakes. Shouting into her mobile phone, the British beauty said she was planning to visit her "future father-in-law", an apparent reference to the father of her friend



Peter Myers outside his Greenwich Village shop with a string of his sought-after Cumberland sausages

Mohamed "Max" Al Habtoor, whom she met at the opening of the Fashion Café in Dubai. Another customer reported her remarks to a local gossip column, even though the two are not engaged, and the supermarket complained to Mr Myers, vowing never to patronise his shop again. "She's not a very nice person," he concludes. "By and large, Americans

show disdain for the Myers shop's feast of British cuisine. "Ninety-five per cent of our customers are British," Mr Myers says. "The only Americans who come are the ones who have sampled the biscuits while they have been on holiday. The more venturesome sample our sausages."

"Americans are not very adventurous when it comes to culinary delights."

# Dogged but not so hot

Americans are getting a lesson in class politics from the British film-maker Michael Apted, creator of the 7 Up documentaries that track the lives of youngsters into middle age. After the success of the British series since 1964 - with 42 Up due soon in Britain - the project was extended to America and then to Russia, Japan, Germany and South Africa.

The latest instalment on this side of the Atlantic, 14 Up in America, has just been broadcast, proving that the US is not the classless society it likes to think it is. Lucy, Kate and Alexis, filmed as seven-year-olds at New York's exclusive Nightingale-Bamford prep school, still seem destined for financial success at 14, while Leroy, brought up on a housing estate on Chicago's notorious South Side, will be lucky to stay out of jail.

"I am struck by how worldly-wise the American 14-year-olds are," Mr Apted said. "My English children were a bit more innocent."



THE Fourth of July might be Independence Day, but American dominance is under threat. Every year at this time crowds at Coney Island watch the peculiarly American sport of hotdog-eating. The contest has been won for the last two years by Hirofumi Nakajima, a diminutive Japanese who set a world record by gulping down 24.5 hotdogs (with buns) in 12 minutes. This year he faces a challenge from Ed "The Animal" Krachie, a 6ft 7in New Yorker who is calling on Zen concentration techniques. Among other contenders is Barney Noble, a British haggis-eating champion.

# Falklands pair give Argentina red card

ARGENTINA'S last-gasp victory in the World Cup was particularly bitter for a delegation of Falkland Islanders who had travelled to New York to put their case at the United Nations. Norma Edwards and Sharon Halford, both Falkland Islands councillors, watched the match in their hotel room.

"It's a biased view I have, but I really did not think England's third goal should have been disallowed and I thought it was a bit harsh on Beckham," Norma opines.

The two get the chance to level the score when they go before the annual meeting of the UN's Decolonisation Com-



mittee on Monday, where the Argentinians will again seek backing for their claim to the islands. "We are going to have our annual match with Argentina," Norma says. "We are ever hopeful. But if it goes to a vote, we usually lose."

# A casual comment about the planned international space station by James Cameron, the Titanic producer-director, has taken off and begun to orbit the globe.

The Oscar-winner and self-proclaimed "King of the World" told students at a college in Canada: "I think NASA should send a filmmaker to chronicle the making of a space station, and since I've had 500 hours in a diving helmet, I'm partway there and I could probably make some sort of cheesy case for me being the one."

The remark hit the Canadian press and then America's papers before an Internet site reported that Cameron had opened negotiations with the US space agency. However, Cameron's company dismisses the speculation as a "joke".

A casual comment about the planned international space station by James Cameron, the Titanic producer-director, has taken off and begun to orbit the globe.

T-shirt slogans come in all shapes and sizes. This week's winner: "I'm Never in Denial"

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# A heart transplant for Berlin

Architects from round the world are rebuilding a legend, reports Roger Boyes from Berlin

Potsdamer Platz, once the bustling hub of Berlin, is about to be reborn as the world's best architects see the realisation of their metropolitan dreams.

Europe's biggest building site, its skyline cluttered by more than 100 cranes, is fast becoming a blueprint for the future: an attempt to create a new heart for a city whose heart was ripped out by the Cold War.

Whether the experiment works or ends as a monumental folly should soon be apparent. Has the square been over-designed? Can it attract the vibrant life experienced in the 1920s? Will it close down after six o'clock in the evening, like so many German city centres?

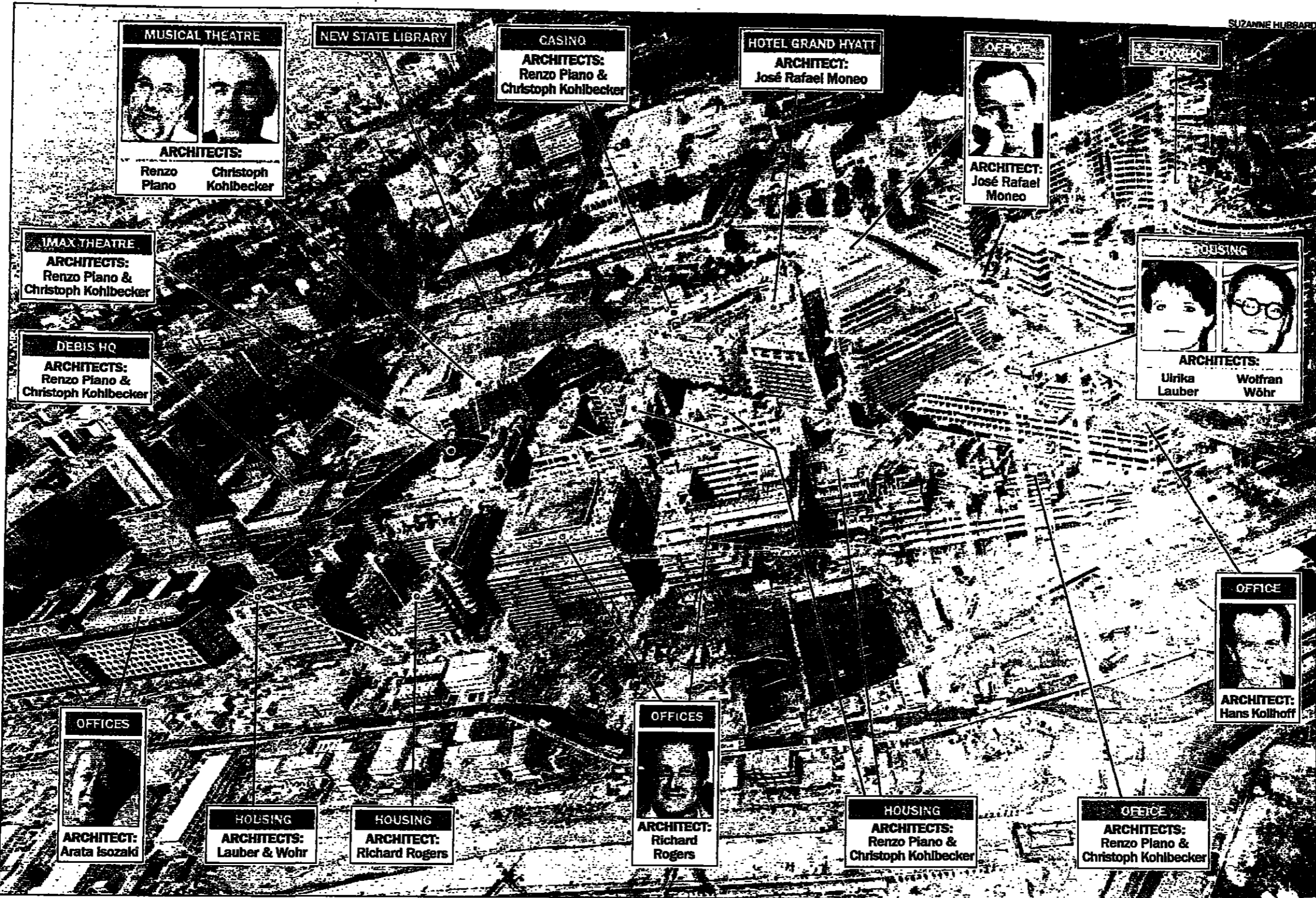
In 1895, 20,000 vehicles a day passed through the square. It was the Times Square of Europe. There were three stations, 25 trams, eight bus lines and an underground railway. In 1924, the first German traffic lights were installed there.

Its hallmark, a large clock, an appropriate symbol for Potsdamer Platz, set the pace of the city. The stress of 1920s Berlin was relieved by the square's other function as an entertainment district.

The caricaturist Georg Grosz and the satirist Erich Kästner, well known for the quintessential Berlin children's book, *Emil and the Detectives*, lingered in the Café Josty. The more elegant Berliners held their rendezvous in the Fürstentor or Esplanade cafés. On one corner of the square, the Haus Vaterland provided a huge entertainment complex big enough to hold 2,000 people.

The Nazis were drawn to the area. The so-called People's Court, presided over by the merciless hanging judge Roland Freisler, was housed in an old grammar school. The square was close to the centre of Nazi power: SS bunkers were dug underneath its paving stones and it became a target of Allied bombing. The square was flattened within a few days. Nothing was left, apart from a wine shop and the shell of the esplanade.

The Cold War made the square a macabre tourist attraction. On a wooden platform one could peer over the Berlin Wall that split the square and study the East German border patrols and their dogs. Wolf Jobst Siedler, the critic, called the square a desert dividing ramshackle



"socialist emergency architecture" from Western "New Brutalism".

In the early summer of 1989, Daimler-Benz bought a plot of land in the shadow of the Berlin Wall for its subsidiary company, Debis. Daimler must have made a financial killing: by November the Wall had come down and by 1993 it was clear that Potsdamer Platz had become a prime piece of European real estate.

Renzo Piano, from Genoa, and Christoph Kohlbecker won the competition to mastermind the merger of East and West in this historic Berlin square. They came up with a modernised version of the 1920s space: a piazza surrounded by a musical theatre, a casino, a cinema showing three-dimensional films, a hotel, about 700 flats, shops spread over 40,000 square yards, restaurants and, of

course, tens of thousands of square yards of office space.

The world's architects sensed a challenge. Arata Isozaki came from Madrid, Rafael Moneo from Madrid, Sir Richard Rogers from London. Berliners smile wryly when the English fret about the Millennium Dome. What is happening in Potsdamer Platz, not to mention Berlin's other grand projects in which British architects are heavily involved, makes the Greenwich building seem like a garden shed.

Over at the ABB complex, Giorgio Grassi from Milan dominates, keeping some of the contours of the old Haus Vaterland. Over the road at the Daimler buildings, various architects have split the spoils - Isozaki, Sir Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano are calling the shots. The glass-celled Sony Centre, another complex of offices, shops, restaurants, cinemas and hotels, is the handiwork of Helmut Jahn from Chicago.

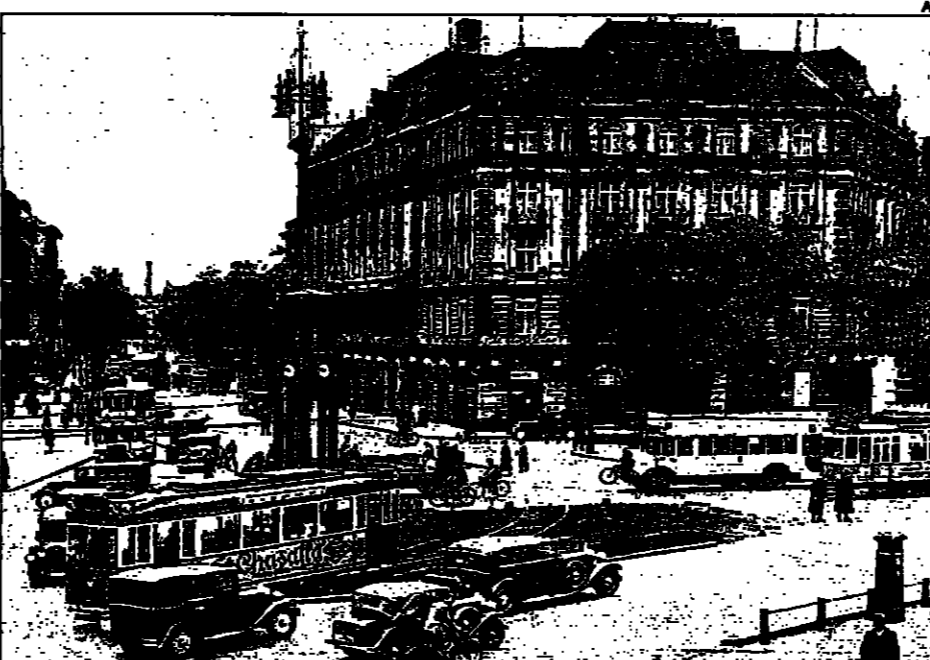
The redesign is also underground. Space has to be created for high-speed trains and four interlocking tunnels are being dug. Building workers are stumbling on Nazi relics because the Third Reich spent much of its final years underground. But it is above ground that draws the eye.

Innovative buildings which, if considered individually, would have been the subject of intense analysis anywhere else in the world are clustered next to each other in this square, although the extraordinary rapidly becomes ordinary.

But the true test will come in a year when Potsdamer Platz starts to throb with people. Then, and only then, will Berliners be able to see if this new artificial heart is beating to the right rhythms.



Hitler with his architect Albert Speer; and the Potsdamer Platz in divided Berlin. The buildings in the foreground are in the British sector



The Potsdamer Platz in 1933, the throbbing centre of a busy world capital

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# Wife says she killed Chechnya war hero

SHOCK and dismay reverberated across Russia yesterday when it was announced that one of its most distinguished and popular generals had been shot dead, apparently a victim of the country's widespread domestic violence.

The body of General Lev Rokhlin, one of the few military commanders to win distinction in Russia's war with Chechnya before embarking on a political career, was found yesterday at his dacha outside Moscow. He had been shot in the head.

Investigators said the circumstances suggested that the killing was domestic rather than politically motivated. General Rokhlin's wife, Tamara, was detained on suspicion of carrying out the shooting.

Interfax news agency quoted a statement by the Moscow Regional Department of the Interior as saying that Tamara Rokhlin, 48, had told investigators that she had shot the general in his sleep early yesterday, using his 5.45mm pistol. There was no

**The death of a popular general who criticised Boris Yeltsin fuels talk of a cover-up, Robin Lodge writes**

indication of the motive and Interfax said police had found her in "a severe state of disorientation". The couple had a 13-year-old son.

Domestic disputes are still the cause of the majority of murders in Russia, despite the sharp rise in violent crime. It is, however, rare for them to involve the higher echelons of society. The killing of such a prominent figure and vehement critic of the Government inevitably gave rise to talk of conspiracy. President Yeltsin called for an immediate, thorough and open investigation into the killing and Sergei Yastrzhembsky, his spokesman, dismissed speculation about a cover-up.

General Rokhlin, 51, commanded the operation that captured the Chechen capital, Grozny, in 1995 after previous

botched attempts led to huge losses by Russian forces and the deaths of thousands of civilians. He had a reputation for dedication and efficiency and was very popular among the men under his command.

He resigned from the army after the conflict and was elected to the State Duma for the pro-government Our Home is Russia faction and appointed chairman of the Duma's defence committee. But after becoming increasingly critical of Mr Yeltsin's planned reforms of the armed forces, General Rokhlin left the faction in September last year. From that date his criticism of Mr Yeltsin turned into open opposition and he formed his own political group, the Movement for Support of the Army.

He said his aim was to

organise an anti-government protest so large and so menacing that Mr Yeltsin would have no option but to resign. Clearly unsettled by the general's activities, Mr Yeltsin ordered the Government to make the improvement of conditions in the armed forces its main priority.

At one stage in January this year, support for General Rokhlin from radical Communists threatened to split the Communist Party, with many members calling for the general to replace Gennadi Zyuganov as party leader. The dispute was resolved when General Rokhlin stepped down as defence committee chairman and promised Mr Zyuganov that he would not form his own group in the Duma.

In the following months, however, General Rokhlin's influence appeared to have waned. A plan to stage in February what he called a "rehearsal" for the overthrow of the regime came to nothing and little had been heard from him since.



General Rokhlin with his wife, Tamara. He was a popular figure with the forces he led into Grozny

**WORLD SUMMARY**

## Minister brings back Maori heads

Wellington: Eleven preserved and tattooed Maori heads held in British museums were returned to New Zealand in an emotional ceremony (Cathie Bell writes).

The heads, from collections held by Scarborough Museum and Edinburgh University, were brought back to Te Papa (the Museum of New Zealand) by Tau Henare, the Maori Affairs Minister. Mr Henare said the handing over of the heads, known as *moko mokai*, was his proudest moment. "If I don't do anything else in this world, this will be my proudest moment... I'm glad to go to my grave as a glorified courier." Opposition MPs criticised the almost £28,000 cost of Mr Henare's 13-day trip to Britain. He and his wife flew first-class.

## Serbs break Kosovo siege

Belgrade: Serb security forces broke the Kosovo Liberation Army's siege of the Kijevo police checkpoint, as the guerrillas appeared to have received warnings from Richard Holbrooke, the American peace envoy, that resistance could lead to a bloodbath (Tom Walker writes). About 80 Serb and five Albanian families had been trapped in Kijevo for almost two weeks.

## Europe heatwave kills ten

Athens: Scorching North African winds swept over Greece and Italy, pushing temperatures as high as 45C (113F) and killing at least ten people. Four deaths in Greece included that of a boy aged three, who died of heatstroke, and an illegal Albanian immigrant who collapsed crossing the border. In Italy, at least six deaths included that of a boy of 18 months left inside a camper in the sun in Rome. (AP)

## Gaza standoff resolved

Jerusalem: Israel and the Palestinian Authority have ended their most serious standoff for two years with a compromise (Christopher Walker writes). The Palestinians lifted their blockade of Gaza Strip Jewish settlements while Israel allowed Abdel Aziz Shaheen, a Palestinian minister, and his convoy to use a prohibited access road.

## Family in Outback ordeal

Sydney: Four members of an Aboriginal family, stranded in the Outback for nearly a fortnight after their car broke down, are recovering in hospital (Roger Maynard writes). They lived on plants and rainwater, but a 12-month-old boy died before rescue came. One of the group walked 125 miles across the desert for four days to raise the alarm.

## Church leader charged

The Rev Henry Lyons, right, head of America's largest black church, faces a jail sentence of 815 years and fines of \$25 million (£15 million) if convicted on 56 federal charges of fraud, extortion and tax evasion (Tom Rhodes writes). Mr Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention, appears in a Tampa, Florida, court on Monday.



## County left to the flames

Bunnell, Florida: Officials ordered all of Florida's Flagler County to be evacuated, telling at least 30,000 people to leave homes and businesses at risk from fires rampaging through the northeast of the state. "The fire is north, south and west," Don North, of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Tallahassee, said. (AP)

## World's tallest man dies

The world's tallest man, Alam Channa, 44, who was 7ft 7½ tall, has died in New York while on a visit from his native Pakistan in search of treatment for kidney failure, spinal problems and diabetes (Helen Rumbelow writes). Mr Channa also held the record for the world's biggest feet at size 22. He weighed 28 stone.

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# Novelist takes fact as fiction in murder plot

A writer has set off a real-life legal drama over a family poisoning case that shook France, Ben Macintyre writes

A LEGAL and literary battle has erupted in France over allegations that an innocent woman accused of attempting to poison her daughter has been tried and convicted not by a court, but by a crime novelist.

The dispute, which has refused attention on one of the most shocking unsolved French crimes of the decade, pits the legal principle of presumption of innocence against a novelist's artistic right to use facts as the basis for fiction.

At stake is not only the guilt or innocence of two individuals, but the question of whether a novel is still fiction if it contains, or appears to contain, fact.

Earlier this year Thierry Jonquet, the French crime writer, published his latest novel to critical acclaim. *Moloch* tells the harrowing story of a young mother, a nursing assistant, who progressively poisons her daughter by injecting her with insulin.

The woman in Jonquet's novel, who commits suicide before coming to trial, suffers from Munchausen's syndrome by proxy, the bizarre psychological compulsion to make a child ill in order to be able to nurse and save them, ensuring their continued dependence.

*Moloch* (the title comes from the monstrous biblical deity to whom parents sacrificed their children) is compelling and unsettling, but it is also, according to Jonquet's critics, a prejudicial retelling of a real case that has never been tried in a court and that may have a very different plot from that depicted by the novelist.

In 1990 Liliane Kazkaz, a 35-year-old nursing assistant, was accused of poisoning her nine-year-old daughter, Caroline. Her Syrian-born husband, Haitham Kazkaz, a medical student and Caroline's stepfather, was suspected of providing the necessary insulin prescriptions.

Caroline narrowly survived a pancreatic attack as a result of the injections and it was while she was in hospital that a horrified doctor realised that the child's state was caused not by illness, but by poisoning.

Liliane Kazkaz protested her innocence, but in November 1994, a month before her trial was about to begin, she was found dead in her Paris home.



Lawyers for the late Liliane Kazkaz, with her daughter, Caroline, and husband, Haitham, say a book by Thierry Jonquet, above, defames the dead woman. The author says his novel is a work of fiction

Jonquet's novel, did not commit suicide, did not attempt to poison her daughter and did not deserve to be labelled, in the guise of fiction, after her death.

Jonquet has responded to the criticism that his work is fiction, pure and simple, but inspired, like all novels, by real events. "It was based on

several stories. No one could ignore the press coverage of the Kazkaz case... as for Munchausen's syndrome, that's at the heart of other novels, including one by Patricia Cornwell. I repeat, *Moloch* is only a novel, a fiction," the author said.

French writers and publishers will be watching the outcome of the legal wrangle closely, for in a sense the judge will be required to define a novel by drawing the line separating fact, for which a writer should be held legally responsible, from fiction, where the writer remains protected by the defence of imagination.

When the cast of characters is perfectly identifiable? wondered *Le Figaro*. "Such affirmations, even in the form of a novel, are they not of a sort to worry the law courts? Can an author thus designate a guilty party before a definitive judgment?"

The row has implications that go beyond a strange and unresolved attempted murder mystery. What, for example, is the legal position of the "novels" now beginning to appear based on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales? That case is also still under legal investigation, although details of the case have been routinely leaked.

With her mother dead and her stepfather in prison, Caroline Kazkaz, 17, who is taking her baccalaureate this year, is currently awaiting the final chapter of an impossibly painful saga. It was a tale that began life on the true crime shelves, moved to fiction and has finished up as a complex courtroom drama and a whodunnit.



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French writers and publishers will be watching the outcome of the legal wrangle closely, for in a sense the judge will be required to define a novel by drawing the line separating fact, for which a writer should be held legally responsible, from fiction, where the writer remains protected by the defence of imagination.

When the cast of characters is perfectly identifiable? wondered *Le Figaro*. "Such affirmations, even in the form of a novel, are they not of a sort to worry the law courts? Can an author thus designate a guilty party before a definitive judgment?"

The row has implications that go beyond a strange and unresolved attempted murder mystery. What, for example, is the legal position of the "novels" now beginning to appear based on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales? That case is also still under legal investigation, although details of the case have been routinely leaked.

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SHOWDOWN AT DRUMCREE

# Trimble's long march to a new Unionism



Michael Gove looks at the First Minister's transformation from Orange figurehead and his troubles ahead

IT WAS on the distant veld of a South African game park that David Trimble began the journey in earnest from leader of one tribe to the architect of a new inclusiveness in Ulster. This weekend Northern Ireland's new First Minister faces his first crisis as nationalists and Unionists in his own constituency prepare for confrontation on the Garvaghy

Road. But, according to friends, David Trimble's capacity to weather this storm springs, at least in part, from new friendships and new ideas which flourished under the African sun.

Last year Northern Ireland's politicians were flown to a secluded reserve as guests of the South African Government to learn about peacemaking the Mandela way. There was an element of patronising naivety about the project. South Africa had been a state built on repression and the denial of democracy. In Northern Ireland it was the revolutionaries of the IRA who deployed repressive measures when faced with the democratic reality of a majority which wished to stay in Britain. But, although it may have been misconceived in grand terms, the South African conference worked in little ways.

The opportunity for relaxed social contact between moderate Unionists and nationalists away from the Westminster



David Trimble squeezing through police lines in 1996 at Drumcree after negotiating with the RUC over an Orange Order parade in the town

hothouse and the Province's traditional trenches helped new alliances to develop. The germ of an entente between Mr Trimble and Seamus Mallon, the SDLP's pragmatic deputy leader, had already taken root. But aides to the Unionist leadership remark on Mr Trimble's tendency to talk of South Africa as a significant stage in the growth of this new bloom which blended Green and Orange. It was after that trip, according to one, that "he knew common ground could develop between himself and Mallon".

The basis for their coming together, according to another friend, is Mr Trimble's "sur-

prising intellectual curiosity, rare in a politician". Friends describe a man emerging from the bookshop at Queen's University Belfast with a dozen new works under his arm and a bitter-sweet grin on his face as he contemplated the number of writers with whom he wanted to keep up but the lack of time to do it. Aides say the intellectually confident, yet open, Mr Mallon had all the qualities any politician would need to impress Mr Trimble.

Mr Trimble's new alliances have surprised many observers, who have only seen the UUP leader in high dudgeon and in his Orange sash. When David Trimble first marched

into the public eye it was arm-in-arm with Ian Paisley after the Drumcree parade three years ago. Attempts by nationalists to thwart the march had been overcome by Mr Trimble and Mr Paisley. Their unity had delivered an unambiguous victory for a Protestant community that considered itself always on the defensive.

That resolution won Mr Trimble the leadership of Ulster Unionism. Although he won the election as a hardliner, other aspects of his character have come to the fore. When considering how to develop a new Unionist politics Mr Trimble has tended to fish outside the waters familiar to

UUP leaders. As a former academic himself, he has taken the time to study the ideas of thinkers such as Henry Paterson and Paul Bew who have explored avenues out of sectarianism for Ulster. Both are "lefties" rather than the traditional conservatives who have tended to nurture Unionist leaders. Their thinking has been reflected in Mr Trimble's strategy of working closely with Tony Blair while distancing himself from the Conservatives.

Confidants remark on the boost to Mr Trimble's authority, which has come from working together with the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie

Ahern, and the US President, Bill Clinton. That capacity for statesmanship will be tested in the hours ahead over Drumcree and the months ahead as Unionism contemplates the possible elevation of Sinn Fein politicians to executive office.

It is rare for an Ulster Unionist leader to have so many allies outside his own constituency as Mr Trimble does. But he will need all the friends and authority he can muster if he is to face troubles ahead within that constituency. Hope for the future may have come out of Africa but peace with honour is still under construction in Ulster.

## Local hero who fills opponents with hate

By Audrey Magee

THIN, with a pot belly and a cigarette constantly perched on his lip, Brendan MacCionnaith is the hero of Portadown's nationalists and the hate figure of its loyalists.

MacCionnaith, 40, a convicted IRA terrorist, manages Garvaghy Road in the period before the Drumcree parade. He prepares the battle plans and the emergency supplies and manages the media, all from a battered community centre.

At the age of 24 he was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for offences leading to the bombing of the British Legion hall in Portadown.

The Orangemen accuse him of initiating the opposition on Garvaghy Road to the Drumcree march. He was behind the 1995 protests pivotal to each stand-off since. But his community, which in May voted him on to Craigavon council as an independent, supports his stance.

He is viewed by the security forces and government negotiators as trenchant and difficult, and expresses his grievances over the airwaves rather than trying to negotiate in private. Last October he was held back by police when he tried to read a letter of protest to the Prime Minister about police handling of the Orange Order march down Garvaghy Road in the previous July.

One security source said of MacCionnaith: "His influence in this is malign. He does not want to compromise. Compromise would finish him. His fame rests on Drumcree."

MacCionnaith is more militant than any of the other republicans seeking to ban Orange parades from marching through their areas. He does not allow Sinn Fein to negotiate on behalf of the residents on Garvaghy Road.

There was no sign last night at a local residents' meeting that MacCionnaith was prepared to compromise and allow the Orangemen to walk down Garvaghy Road. One security source said: "MacCionnaith has no intention of letting any kind of parade go down Garvaghy Road, even on its knees."



## Newspapers call on both sides to make concessions

By a Correspondent

NORTHERN Ireland's two morning newspapers have appealed for the two groups embroiled in the Drumcree parade dispute to make concessions.

A joint editorial to run in today's *Irish News* and *News Letter* calls on Garvaghy Road residents to lift their objections to

tomorrow's march while Orangemen divert it away from the contentious stretch of road.

"This formula respects the rights of both sides," it states. "Both retain their dignity and do not yield their right to any position throughout talks or in the years ahead."

The appeal is the latest in a series published by the newspa-

pers supporting the peace process. The *Irish News* has a largely nationalist readership while the *News Letter* draws readers predominantly from Unionists.

The editorial claims Tony Blair's contribution to the discussions aimed at unlocking the dispute would have been "considerably greater" had he talked directly to the leaders of

Portadown Orangemen and the residents' group. "The only chance of finding a resolution is by people on the ground getting together to discuss their differences," it says.

"Orangemen and residents must disengage themselves from the past and look to the future. The Orange Order in Portadown should talk to the residents with-

out preconditions and the residents should talk to the Orange Order. The agenda should not be focused purely on the Drumcree church parade, its objective should be to find a way both traditions can be fully respected within Portadown. The ambition must be that there should be no no-go areas."

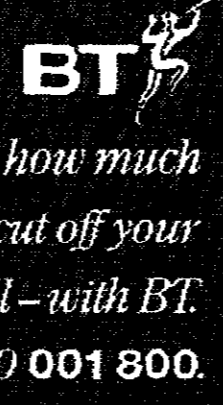
The editorial suggests that,

from the outset of such talks, Orangemen should pledge a commitment to parading in a way which is acceptable to everyone in Portadown. It also calls for the residents to declare, as part of an agreement, that they would like to see Orangemen marching down Garvaghy Road. "Each tradition has something vital to offer, agreement would enhance both."



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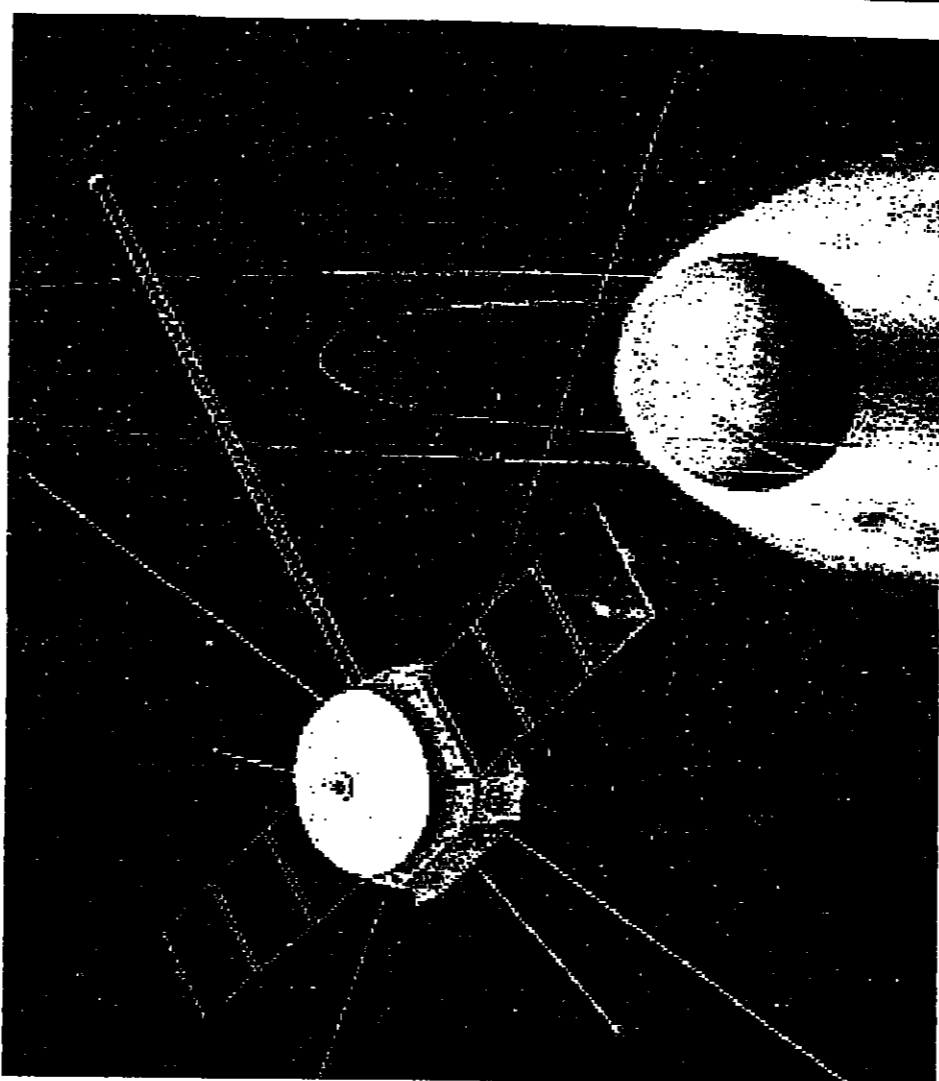
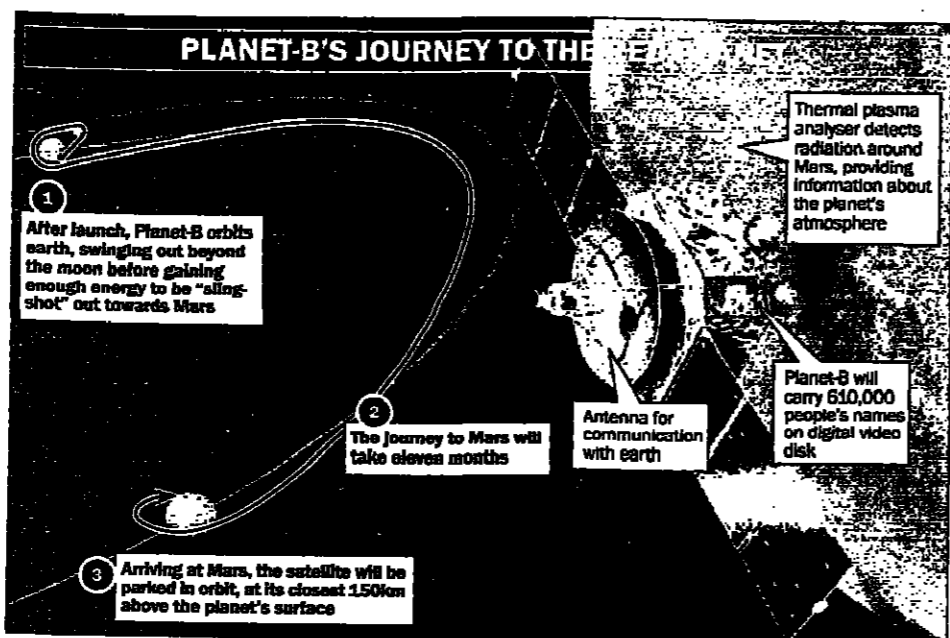
CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة الأصيل

# Japan embarks on adventure to Mars



Enigma of lost water beckons, writes Robert Whyman



An artist's impression of the Planet-B spacecraft orbiting around Mars, which will collect data on the Red Planet's environment during a two-year survey

## 'Sneak' asteroids threaten Earth

A TYPE of asteroid that could appear out of the Sun and hit the Earth without warning has been discovered by astronomers (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The 40-yard-wide rock found by scientists at the University of Hawaii is not thought to pose any threat in itself. But it may have undetected neighbours and nobody knows how dangerous they may be.

All previously known asteroids travel on courses around the Sun that take them beyond the range of the Earth's orbit for at least part of their journey. The new asteroid, designated 1998 DK36, is different: it remains between the Earth's orbit and the Sun, making it difficult to spot.

Dr David Tholen, planetary astronomer at the university's Institute of Astronomy, said that if the track of such an asteroid intersected with the orbit of the Earth it could hit the globe without warning. Astronomers would be caught unawares by an object approaching from the daytime side of the sky.

A LIGHTWEIGHT spacecraft, Planet-B, due to blast off today from southern Japan on the first stage of a voyage to Mars, may solve a puzzle.

The first Japanese interplanetary mission has attracted little publicity overseas, but considerable excitement among the public — 270,000 people applied to have their names engraved on Planet-B. The Mars initiative underscores Tokyo's bold ambitions for its space industry. The private sector is working on extravagant schemes to build lunar colonies and promote space tourism. But Japan's researchers, beset by shrinking budgets as the Government reins in spending, face a formidable struggle to catch up with America.

The Planet-B research probe, carrying scientific instruments from Japan and four other countries, is designed to collect data on the Martian environment during a two-year orbiter mission. Recent studies have revealed that Mars used to have much more water than it has now, and Japanese researchers hope Planet-B will help to explain the mystery of the disappearance.

The water-loss process from this relatively cold planet is one of the biggest issues in solar system science, since it might apply to Earth at some point in the future," says Yasunori Matogawa, a professor of the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, the government body in charge of the project.

Planet-B, which uses sophisticated design techniques to reduce its weight, is a marvel of compactness — 1,193lb in weight, about 4ft 10in wide and 1ft 9in high.

Launched by a two-ton rocket called the M5, it will orbit Earth for the first five months before propelling itself on a ten-month voyage to Mars. Japan is concentrating more of

its resources on a programme to explore the Moon. A full-scale exploration project has begun, with the aim of landing a spacecraft inside a lunar crater.

As a first step, the institute plans to launch the Lunar A exploration satellite next summer. Lunar A is designed to shoot harpoon-shaped observation devices into the Moon to a depth of 6ft 6in to gather data on the Moon's geological characteristics.

In the second phase, scientists aim to map the entire lunar surface for distribution of elements and minerals, gravitational field and environment. A satellite called Serene, which is scheduled for launch in 2003, will be put into circular orbit 62 miles above the lunar surface, taking high-resolution photos and measuring gravity distribution and magnetic waves.

Serene will be equipped with a robot vehicle which will separate and land on the Moon to explore the surface. Researchers say the vehicles will cover larger areas of the Moon than those used by America's Apollo exploration programmes.

"By the middle of the 21st century, commercial exploitation of the Moon could well be possible," Professor Matogawa says. While some firms are attracted by the lure of mining the Moon's minerals, others have more whimsical schemes on the drawing board.

Shimizu, one of Japan's biggest building companies, has a division for lunar construction which has designed condominiums it would like to build on the Moon.

The Japanese Rocket Society — which is backed by firms such as Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and All Nippon Airways — has financed the conceptual design of a rocket-type vehicle for space tourism. Market research has shown

that half of Japan's 123 million population would pay at least three months' salary for a journey into space.

□ Cash hitch: Japan's space agency plans to postpone the launch of a Japanese-made

space shuttle by three years to 2003 due to budgetary and technical difficulties, a spokesman said last night. Officials linked to the Prime Minister's office will make a formal decision. (AP)

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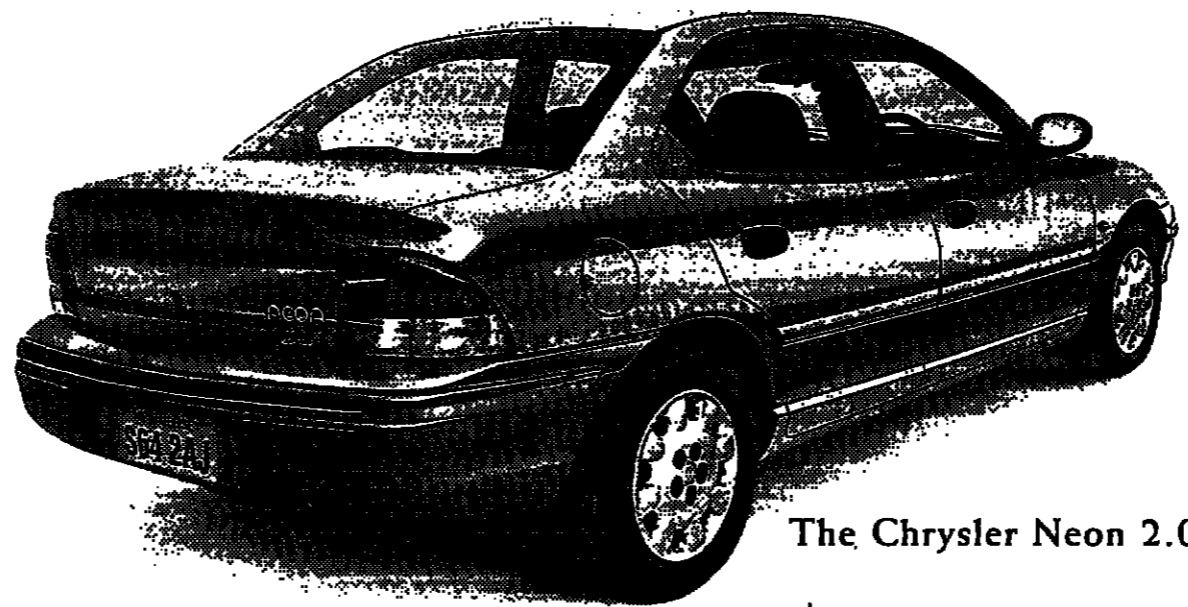
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# China will turn to democracy, says Clinton

"I BELIEVE there can be and there will be democracy in China," President Clinton said yesterday, in the final hours of his landmark tour of China. Asked if it would come in his lifetime, he declared: "I certainly hope so".

In his most forthright call yet for radical change in China, he called democracy "a universal aspiration", as well as the moral and economic "life force" of the future.

His final rallying message of the nine-day trip, the first state visit by an American President in a decade, called on China's leaders to "ride the wave of change and take China into the 21st century".

Mr Clinton, who sees the warmer personal relationship with President Jiang Zemin as one of the triumphs of the visit, called his counterpart a "man of extraordinary intellect, and a lot of vigour for his age, or indeed any age". Mr Jiang "has vision, he can imagine a future different from the present", he said.

Mr Clinton thanked Mr Jiang for giving the go-ahead for two live broadcasts, including the Presidents' joint press conference, the most startling moments of the tour. "I think he did the right thing," said Mr Clinton. "People said to me that [the broadcasts]

Jiang praised as man for change, writes Bronwen Maddox in Hong Kong

Maddox in Hong Kong

changed the whole texture of what happened."

But for the first time, Mr Clinton explicitly referred to the domestic political threats to Mr Jiang from colleagues who fear that the turmoil of reform will shake their control. To those figures of "resistance", Mr Clinton said: "I hope more of them understand that America wishes China well, that it is not bent on containing China."

Mr Clinton made the remarks at an evening press conference before a planned ferry trip to see the glittering lights of Hong Kong harbour.

Earlier, in his last scripted speech, he promised that the US would come to Asia's aid in its financial crisis. But he bluntly called for "full democracy" in Hong Kong and directly challenged the legitimacy of authoritarian leaders. "No individual or group is so

wise or so all-knowing that make all the decisions that involve unfettered power over other people," he said. He met Martin Lee and other democratically elected leaders of Hong Kong later in the day.

In Mr Clinton's final comments, the contradictions in US policy that have been buried beneath this week's enthusiasm began to surface. Praising the spread of democracy across Asia "from Japan to the Philippines, South Korea to Mongolia", he said that "America will stand by the people of Indonesia as they strive to become part of the rising tide of freedom around the world".

But he maintained the US position that it would not support the elected leaders of Taiwan if they chose to assert independence from China. Pressed on why the US should "engage" with China when it did not with Cuba, he said each case had to be considered on its merits.

□ Ups and downs: Mr and Mrs Clinton and accompanying Secret Service agents were stuck in a lift for ten minutes at the Hong Kong convention centre. White House officials said. The problem was blamed on a computer fault, possibly caused by a lightning strike. (Reuters)



President Clinton speaks to Asian and Western businessmen in Hong Kong yesterday. He said: "Our futures are inextricably bound together"

## Media send ducks and pigs flying

By BRONWEN MADDOX

WHEN the man from *Vanity Fair* approached the man from *The New York Times* to ask what he thought of the media army travelling with President Clinton, the brush-off was worthy of a Clint

Eastwood showdown. "I am eating my breakfast," the subject of the interview retorted with hauteur and finality.

The US media circus is a phenomenon in its own right. More than 300 reporters followed Mr Clinton from Washington, and the total

peaked at more than 1,000. On Thursday, a cavalcade of ten air-conditioned press coaches nudged its way along rural dirt roads, as straw-hatted peasants drove ducks and pigs out of the way and sared. One White House aide, chatting by mobile phone to another in the bus ahead, said: "This is obscene."

In the nine-day, five-city tour, temperatures of up to 32C (90F) have removed any glamour, with the television presenters' linen suits.

But lavishness has still prevailed over squalor. At each pitstop, the media pack pours into the town's best hotel, with 50 trestle tables and 200 phones laid out under dim chandeliers. Along one wall are troughs of sweating food, and plates are piled with clashing cuisines: Wiener schnitzel, sweet-and-sour fish, and Irish brisket with mashed potatoes. The US network radio reporters drown out the soft click of keyboards with their over-emphasised ca-

dences, and their matey attempts to translate for the Midwest. "I'm here to tell you it was 100 degrees on that lawn! No fooling around, our President got some tough questions."

Their commentary evolves as they run through take after take. "Students were doing everything but hanging out the dorm windows..." one reporter boomed back to headquarters. "OK, once more: 'students were hanging

out the dorm windows..." The heavy papers sent reporters out weeks ago; they relayed back lengthy, complex portraits from remote provinces. Some TV crews have previously captured shocking examples of brutality, prisoners flogged while shackled to a wall.

But the tour has not encouraged subtle journalism, particularly television, desperate to grab footage of "real Chinese" in a rushed timetable. In remote Xiahe village, one crew asked dumbstruck peasants what they thought of Monica Lewinsky. Another drove up to a prison in Xian and demanded entry. When a guard put his hand over the camera lens, it was seized on as a symbol of repression.

The TV crews debate their final dilemma: whether it would be crass to use shots of Mr Clinton landing at Hong Kong's new airport as Chinese President Jiang Zemin takes off, by way of a metaphor for US-China relations.



## Nigeria still out in the cold

By MICHAEL DYNES

NIGERIA'S suspension from the Commonwealth will remain in force until there has been a credible transition to civilian rule. Chief Ermeke Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, said in London yesterday.

Sanctions will also remain in place until General Abdul-

salam Abubakar's military Government has handed power to a democratically elected government. That was unlikely before the end of the year, Chief Anyaoku said.

There has been widespread speculation over the release of Chief Moshood Abiola, but Chief Anyaoku said that he was unlikely to be released before Wednesday, when the

one-month period of mourning for Sani Abacha, the former dictator, ended.

Chief Abiola was jailed in 1994 when he proclaimed himself President after elections the previous year. The polls were annulled by the military, but observers believe that he had won them.

Leading article, page 21

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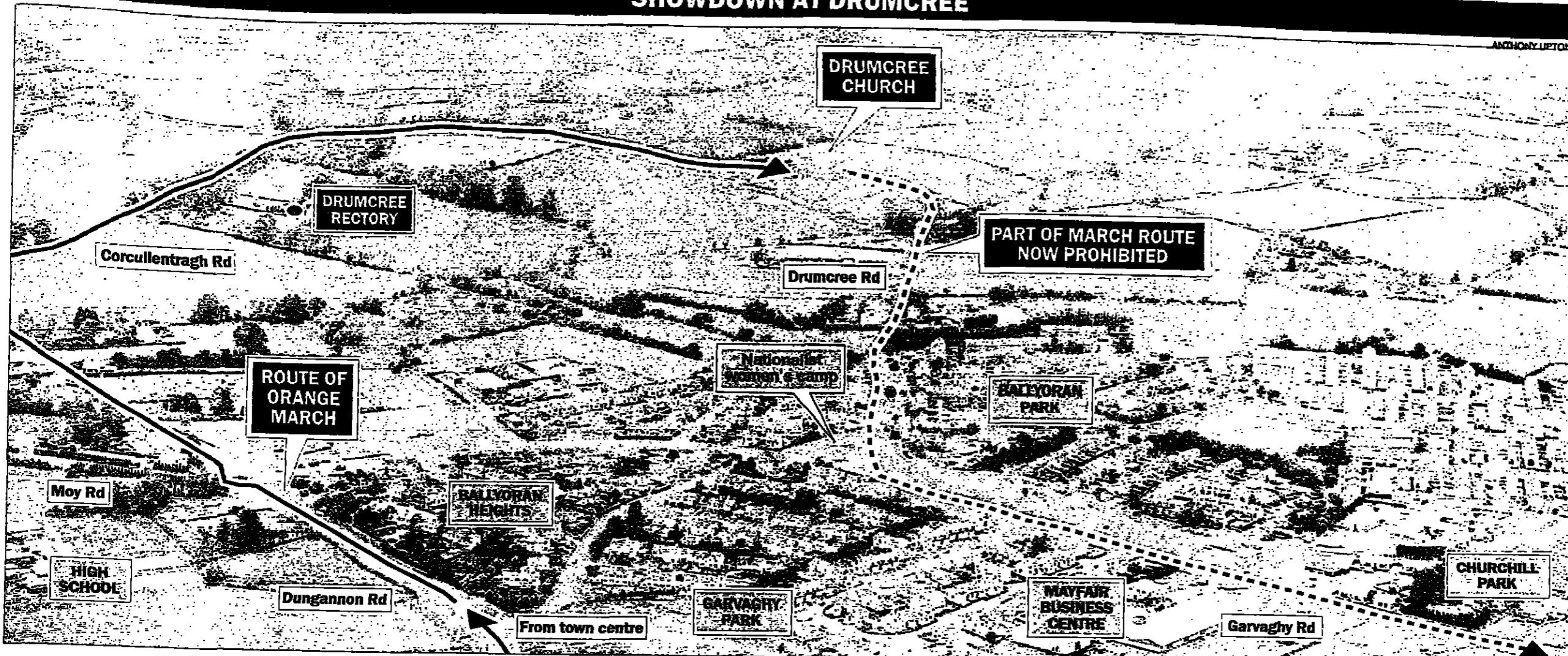
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SHOWDOWN AT DRUMCREE



Along the Road to despair

Audrey Magee sees Drumcree prepare for a weekend of confrontation over the parading of old divisions

RESIDENTS on Garvaghy Road are this morning ready for another siege of Drumcree. For the past week, the women have been buying up eggs, flour, beans and milk to get them through the days they are hemmed in by Orangemen and RUC armoured cars.

"Not being there was even worse - listening to everybody screaming when the RUC came in the night, the plastic bullets and the ambulance sirens, not knowing who was injured."

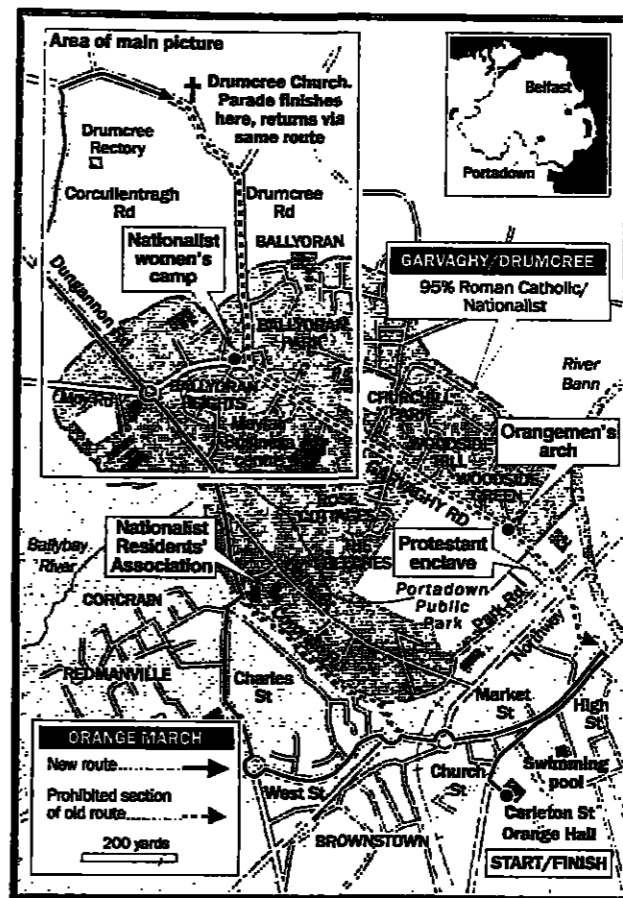
grouped in seven housing estates around Garvaghy Road and Obins Street. About 500 Protestants live among them and a further 200 live in the Protestant enclave at the town end of the Road.



Claire Dignam waits as police armoured cars patrol

Loyalists remember the IRA bombing of Portadown and December's murder of the UVF leader Billy Wright. Nationalists list the Catholics murdered by loyalists.

have nowhere else to go. Too afraid to be named, she finds the stand-off frightening and destructive of the good relations between her and her Catholic neighbours.



MILESTONES IN A HISTORY OF CONFLICT

- 1795: Orange Order founded in Loughall and Armagh village, close to Portadown.
1807: First Orange Order parade from Portadown to Drumcree Church to mark the Sunday before July 12.
1995: Nationalist residents of Obins Street held sit-down protest and blocked parade.

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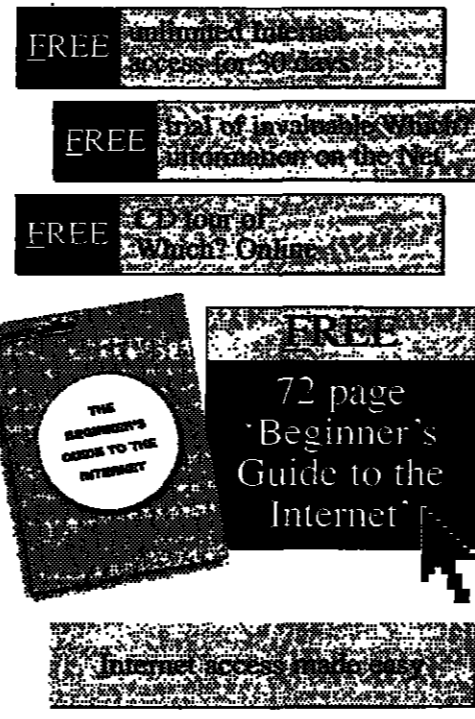
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50 YEARS OF THE NHS

# Abbey multitude moved by Bevan's prophetic words

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE message Tony Blair delivered at Westminster Abbey yesterday brought murmurs of agreement from veterans of the NHS. But the contemporary-sounding pledges of making healthcare easier and more effective by pooling the nation's resources were half a century old.

The Prime Minister was reading from a declaration by Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health and founder of the NHS on July 5, 1948. There was a sense among the doctors, nurses, other staff, patients and volunteers from health authorities nationwide that Bevan's words were remarkably prescient.

The gestation of the NHS had not been trouble free, he had acknowledged. "Nor will there be overnight any miraculous removal of our more serious shortages of nurses and others and of modern, replanned buildings and equipment."

"But the sooner we start, the sooner we can try together to see to these things and to secure the improvements we all want. There is no reason why the whole of the doctor-patient relationship should not be freed from what most of us feel should be irrelevant to it, the money factor."

More than 1,800 worshippers with past or present links to the NHS had gathered in the Abbey, in the presence of the Prince of Wales, for the 50th anniversary service. The Rev Robert Clarke, chief executive of the Hospital Chaplains Council, read the parable of the Good Samaritan from St Luke, the Gospel author who was a doctor.

The most effective and moving contributions came from those such as Grace Owen, who qualified as a district nurse on January 1, 1948, in Cornwall, and who gave one of six "reflections" interspersed with hymns and

anthems by the choir. "Patients paid 2s 6d annually to buy the nurse, as they said, and usually made sure they had their money's worth," she said. "Alternatively, they paid for visits, but no one went without some care."

She described the "dramatic" change that took place in July 1948. "Regular pay packets and off-duty, co-ordinated teamwork and staff supervision meant improved professional care," she said.

"I was privileged to work with innovative pioneers in nursing education in the Sixties. I learnt about survival, creativity, perseverance and



Maintaining integrity. These values remain important today.

Allison John, a patient diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at six weeks, told the congregation how she developed liver disease and, by the age of 17, desperately needed a liver transplant.

After that operation, she needed a heart and lung transplant. "It was a pioneering operation. Its success was unpredictable, but it was my only chance," she said.

"I'll never forget watching television when I was 13 and being told that life expectancy in cystic fibrosis patients be-

yond 13 was rare. This was a very daunting prospect for a child, to be told that she was to lose her life.

"I was just lucky to be born in an era when the NHS was available and people like me were able to benefit from a life-long dependency."

Daniel Atkinson, chairman of the BMA medical students' committee, pleaded for the NHS to treat the whole person — "their emotional, spiritual and physical well-being".

He captured the mood in the Abbey best when he included in his reflection part of a review of the first year of the NHS, published in a medical journal. "There is no evidence that the health of the nation has benefited from the first year of the NHS," he read.

"On the other hand, thanks to the integrity of an ancient and honourable profession, no great harm has been done."

His contribution provoked laughter from the guests throughout the Abbey, who included Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, as well as former ministers such as Sir Norman Fowler, Lord Mayor of Lower Marsh and William Waldegrave.

The MPs Ann Widdecombe and Simon Hughes were at the service, as were directors and chairmen and women of the NHS executive regions.

But most of the congregation was made up of NHS staff past and present — doctors, nurses and administrators — including many who have worked for the Service since it was founded by the Minister of Health in the postwar Labour Government.

The service began and ended with a 100-strong procession led by 20 people carrying a 20-yard banner portraying images of the NHS through-

the decades.



Margaret Clements, left, as a midwife on the Isle of Wight with triplets she had helped to deliver in 1953

# The healthcare professionals who did so much for so many

Past and present staff reflect on change to Alexandra Frean

YESTERDAY'S service at the Abbey gave NHS workers past and present a chance to reflect on years of achievement in healthcare.

The guests included Sir George Godber, the Chief Medical Officer between 1960 and 1973, who is the only surviving Ministry of Health official who worked on the preparations for setting up the NHS in the 1940s.

Sir George, 90, who attended a first NHS anniversary lunch in 1949 with Aneurin Bevan, described the introduction of the NHS as "the greatest social advance in this country in this century".

Despite its many difficulties, he said, the NHS had always succeeded in offering tremendous value for money. "We spend about about half the percentage of our GDP per head on healthcare than the United States does and we give complete coverage

whereas they do not." Also present at the Abbey was Gwendolen Bingham, 82, a retired nursing officer from Huddersfield, who began her training in 1932 and worked for the NHS from its inception to her retirement in 1976.

Miss Bingham said she was immensely proud to have worked in the service. "One very positive thing was the reduction in hours nurses had to work. When I started general training we did 70 hours a week and were paid £18 a year," she said.

Miss Bingham, who as a student nurse was known as Bing, welcomes many of the pharmaceutical and clinical developments she witnessed over her four decades as a nurse but regrets that new technology might have led to less personal contact with patients.

Margaret Clements, who completed her training in



Gwendolen Bingham: proud to have served

1946 and worked in the NHS until her retirement in 1990, became a midwife in the 1950s and worked on the Isle of Wight.

"Things have come full circle. When I started there were more natural births, then they started inducing everyone so that the babies could be born at convenient times between 9am and 5pm. Now, we give women more choice and most choose to have natural births and to

have spontaneous labour again," Mrs Clements said.

Among the present younger generation of nurses, Paula Taylor, a nurse practitioner attached to St Mary's Hospital, Central London, specialises in intestinal disorders and runs an outpatients' "telemedicine" clinic. Using a video endoscope, she can send images of her patients down the line to specialists at other hospitals.

Ms Taylor, 30, who was not at the Abbey yesterday, is positive about the future of the NHS, particularly with new measures to improve and monitor standards. "I think that keeping a check on standards and auditing everything is great. So is allowing patients to have a say in things."

Liam Williams, 26, a third-year nursing student at Stoke Mandeville Hospital NHS Trust in Buckinghamshire, is concerned about low pay in the profession but said: "There are not many jobs where you can make such a difference to people's lives."

## FROM BEVAN TO BLAIR

In the aftermath of war, when the NHS was founded, food was still rationed, building material and fuel were in short supply and there was a housing crisis.

The wartime need to set up emergency medical and hospital services to treat troops, the casualties of bombing, and evacuees, had demonstrated the possibility of a state health service. The NHS nationalised all hospitals and brought them into a single command structure, enabling a more equitable distribution of resources.

Estimates of the cost were soon exceeded, as new drugs and treatments were developed. The new, free service uncovered a vast amount of unmet medical need. The words of the NHS's founder, Aneurin Bevan — "We never shall have all we need," ring true today.



Bevan: his words ring true today

- 1942: Beveridge report identifies health as one of the basic services necessary to provide social security.
- 1944: White Paper, *A National Health Service*, published.
- 1948: on 5 July, "vesting" day, the NHS officially opens.
- 1948: Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, announces that NHS costs 2s 6d a head per week — four times more than first thought.
- 1951: first NHS charges are introduced — 6s for spectacles, and half the true cost for a pair of dentures.
- 1958: British Medical Association names cigarette smoking as chief cause of lung cancer.
- 1961: the Pill available on NHS.
- 1972: kidney donor cards.
- 1973: NHS re-organisation.
- 1978: Louise Brown, the first test-tube baby, is born.
- 1982: information campaign to combat spread of Aids.
- 1991: Conservatives introduce the NHS internal market; 57 NHS trusts and 306 GP fundholders begin to operate.
- 1997: Tony Blair's Government publishes a White Paper, *NHS Modern and Dependable*, proposing partial abolition of internal market, and primary care groups run by GPs and community nurses.

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## CULTURE

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

سكزاجن الأصل

VALERIE GROVE meets the women belatedly honoured today
Cambridge's studied act of contrition

The pioneer women of Girton and Newnham — a formidable and dauntless breed — were never the sort to make an unnecessary fuss. For decades they were excluded from full membership of Cambridge University. They could study for their degrees and sit the Tripos examinations but there was no graduation ceremony at the Senate House for them. They were not entitled to BA Cantab; only to BA (Tit), which understandably few espoused.

benefit, I'm ashamed to say. There was plenty of rationed, wartime fun. She taught ballroom dancing, organised May Balls, and ran the Cambridge University Society for International Affairs, whose Sunday lunches were a special treat: beetroot and Marmite sandwiches, and apple juice with their patron, the great G.M. Trevelyan, Master of Trinity.

With her "titular" degree, Lady Platt went into the experimental flight test department of the Hawker aircraft factory, working on Hurricanes, Tempests and Furies. "You can imagine the look in the men's eyes: 'Oh, my God, there's a war on, and we've got a woman engineer'. But they soon realised I was prepared to work hard: I knew my flight and performance reports for the RAF had to be 100 per cent right. And there we are: we won the war."

Afterwards she worked for BEA on air safety: "Exciting, challenging work — which is why I continue to encourage girls into science and engineering."

After marriage and children and running a church young wives' club, she went into local government, where her involvement in women's education led to her appointment by Willie Whitelaw as chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission in 1983: "A deep learning curve," she says.

Baroness David, then Nora Blakesley, went up to read English and was a hockey Blue. She says: "I don't think I felt very militant. One was just so damned pleased to be there."

In the 1930s, men had to be out of women's rooms by 7pm, and women could not visit a man's room unchaperoned, but she fell in love during her last year — her future husband played Antony in a brilliant

Dadie Rylands production — and afterwards embarked on marriage and motherhood. When she was eventually entitled to collect her BA in 1948, her husband and young sons watched from the gallery.

Three women graduates from the pre-1948 years will make a response to the Vice-Chancellor. By chance, two of them — Baroness Platt of Writtle (Girton 1941) and Baroness David (Newnham 1932) were in the House of Lords on Thursday, voting on opposite sides on the School Standards Bill.

Ladies Platt and David, aged 75 and 84 respectively, took the traditional route of their generations of Cambridge women to becoming pillars of society: public service. When Baroness Platt went up, as Beryl Myatt, to read engineering, she was one of only five women among 250 men.

"We never batted an eyelid about our 'unofficial' status," she says. "It meant we didn't have to wear gowns — which would have caught in our bicycle spokes anyway — and we weren't subject to proctorial rule, which was felt to be a



Newnham past and present from left in gowns, Anne Piper, Lady David and the Rev Sylvia Hallam. The T-shirts list distinguished graduates



Girton past: the first five women students in 1869 (courtesy of the Mistress and Fellows of Girton)

and from prominent women who declined to help her. "I have decided objections to bringing large numbers of girls together," wrote the novelist Charlotte M. Yonge. "Superior women will always teach themselves, and inferior women will never learn enough for more than home life."

A leader in The Times agreed: "English homes will always be the schools in which English wives and mothers can best be trained."

Miss Davies finally succeeded in 1869 in opening her college, first at Hitchin (with five students), then at Girton, three miles outside Cambridge, a safe distance from the men. The very idea of

young women living away from home was seen as a threat and a temptation, disrupting men's careers.

And if women qualified for the men's professions, where would it end? "Beware the Thin End of the Wedge, Where Women's Degrees," said the posters.

Gradually women were allowed to attend the men's lectures (with chaperones) and within a few years several gained Firsts: Agnata Ramsay of Girton took a First in Classics in 1887.

Yet the men's denial of formal degrees to women in Cambridge persisted. In 1921, by which time Oxford had granted degrees to women,

Cambridge again voted crushingly against. "As you will have read, with scorn and disgust," Rosamond Lehmann wrote to her mother, "we are still a forlorn band of outcasts in this enlightened university. Isn't it unspokeable? There had been 'judicious concessions and demonstrations' by the men on the day of the vote.

"We had to lift our heads and sail unconcernedly through mob after mob of mischievously-inclined undergraduates... They went to Newnham, smashed the lovely memorial gates and did £700 worth of damage. And THAT is the superior sex!"

"That year, a concession was made: the women could have 'titular' degrees. Darned cheek, said Rosamond Lehmann. When Baroness Woodman of Abinger, who had taken a First in economics at Girton, was invited to give lectures in 1929, they were listed under the name of a male colleague, with a footnote saying that the lectures would in fact be given by Mrs Woodman.

"The whole thing became a total nonsense," says Lady David, when Dorothy Garrod of Newnham was appointed a Professor of Archaeology in 1939. She ran her department, but could have no say in the affairs of the university."

Liz Eccleshare, the daughter of two distinguished dons, Joan and Stanley Bennett, remembers her father's concern that his fellow women dons were at such a disadvantage, having no voting rights in university matters.

"And I do remember myself being irritated by Dr Pickthorn, who always began his lectures by addressing us

as 'Gentlemen', absolutely refusing to acknowledge that there were women there at all."

When Cambridge's statutes changed in 1948, to admit graduates of Newnham and Girton to the degree ceremony, it gave a sense of legitimacy at last.

Who was the very first woman to receive a degree at Cambridge that year? Girton's official Visitor, the Queen (now Queen Elizabeth the Mother). Fifty years later, she went back to Girton last year for another celebration.

In fact, the anniversary is proving an excuse for a series of memorable reunions. As Lady David says: "There will be people one hasn't seen for 50 years."

"The younger generation," Juliet Campbell says, "are apt to speak about 'discrimination' and to assume that these women's lives were ruined by not being officially recognised. The women themselves take a different view.

"They don't want to be patronised. They never regarded it as a personal tragedy, or felt deprived or excluded. They were pleased enough to get to Cambridge. 'They all say, 'Weren't we lucky. Cambridge belonged to us.' And it did."

Or at any rate, it does today.

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Or at any rate, it does today.

Primary lessons failing children

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CHILDREN'S grasp of English and mathematics at primary schools has declined dramatically in two decades, according to an authoritative study. Professor Maurice Galton has conducted a follow-up to his 1978 Oracle study, which has been one of the most widely-quoted sources on primary schools. Returning to many of the same schools and setting similar tests, researchers from Leicester University found that average marks in reading and vocabulary had dropped from 63 per cent to 48 per cent. The average for mathematics was down from 56 per cent to 45 per cent.

Although 11-year-olds performed better in their use of capitals, punctuation and use of language, there were sharp declines in mathematical problems, spelling and especially comprehension. Among pupils aged 9, the decline was even greater. Of eight areas of mathematics and English, only punctuation showed improvement on 1978.

The survey, to be published in the autumn, was previewed yesterday in The Times Educational Supplement. Professor Galton said that teachers could not be blamed for the decline because the National Curriculum and Government advisers had forced them to alter successful practices.

Although teachers were working harder, they spent less time hearing children read or providing individual advice. The study suggests that pupils are spending much of the day listening without having to respond.

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COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE July 3: The Queen this morning visited the Thistle Foundation, Craigmillar, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan), the Rt Hon the Lord Provost, the Honorary Presidents (the Earl of Wessex and March KT and Mr Bryce McCosh) and the Chairman of the Council (Mr Colin Donald).



Ingalo Thompson and Richard Elson of East Dulwich, London, who have recently announced their engagement

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.G.M. Barber and Miss S.J. Riggs The engagement is announced between Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Barber, of Wingham, Kent, and Samantha Jayne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Riggs, of Chichester, West Sussex.

Memorial service

Colonel William Brownlow The Queen was represented by Mr William Hall, Lord-Lieutenant of County Down, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Colonel William Brownlow, former Lord-Lieutenant of County Down, held yesterday in the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Downpatrick, Northern Ireland.

Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Naval Reserve promotions

The following provisional selections have been made for promotions to date December 31, 1998, and June 30, 1999. Promotions to date December 31, 1998. Warfare Branch CAPTAIN: D C Goodall; P T Docherty; T R Harris; S C Ramo; P K Walker; P N M Davies; A S Brooks; MBE: A D Richards.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Duke of Kent, president, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent will attend the ladies final at 12.30.

Service luncheon

Faugh-a-Ballagh Club General Sir Roger Wheeler, Colonel of The Royal Irish Fusiliers, and Lady Wheeler, attended the annual Faugh-a-Ballagh Club luncheon of former Officers of The Royal Irish Fusiliers and their ladies held yesterday at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Dinner

Royal College of Radiologists Dr Terry Priestman, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Oncology, Royal College of Radiologists, was the host at a dinner held last night at 38 Portland Place, London W1, for members of the board of the faculty.

Legal appointment

Mr Crawford Callum Douglas Lindsay, QC, to be a Judge on the South Eastern Circuit.

Weekend birthdays

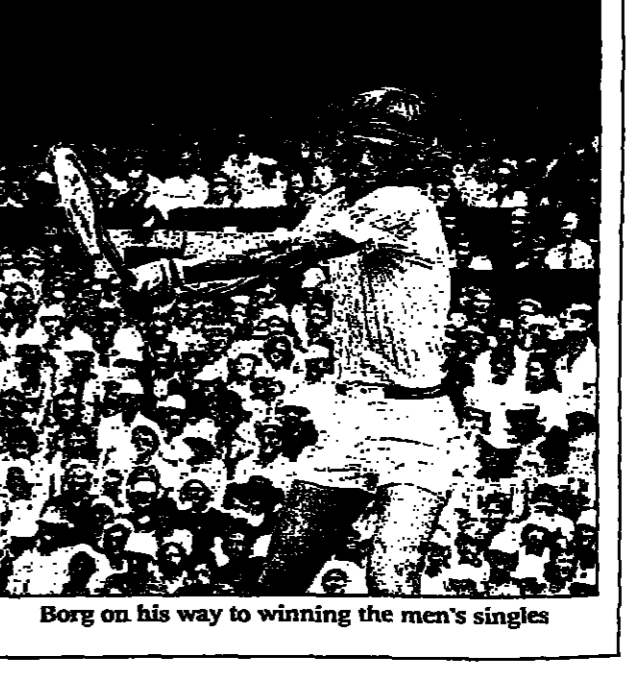
TODAY: The King of Tonga celebrates his 53th birthday today. Prince Michael of Kent celebrates his 56th birthday today. The Duke of Abercorn, 64; Mr René Arnoux, racing driver, 50; Lord Barber, 78; Sir Alec Bedser and his twin brother Mr Eric Bedser, cricketers, 80; Mr M.D. Brough, plastic surgeon, 85; the Earl of Buchan, 88; Mr Richard Clothier, former chief executive, Dalgety, 53; Mr R.A. Garrett, former chairman, National Association of Boys' Clubs, 80; Sir Alastair Goodall, former chairman, Balfic Exchange, 66; Sir John Llewellyn, tennis player, 70; Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive, Bass, 55; Sir Simon Stewart, clinical oncologist, 43; Mr Peter General of Grenada, 63; Miss Pam Shriner, tennis player, 36; Mr Neil Simon, playwright, 71; Sir Michael Stoker, FRS, former President, Clare Hall, Cambridge, 80; Mr Colin Welland, actor and playwright, 64.

TWO ICEBERGS DOMINATED A HALF COOKED WIMBLEDON

By Rex Bellamy TENNIS CORRESPONDENT PARADOX is the word that springs to mind when looking back at the 1976 Wimbledon championships. An over-heated tournament was dominated by two icebergs, if that is not too glib a metaphor for the concentrated, calculated self-discipline of the new singles champions, Bjorn Borg and Christine Evert.

ON THIS DAY

July 4, 1976 At the age of 20 years and 27 days Bjorn Borg became the youngest men's champion at Wimbledon for nearly half a century. He took the title after beating the Nastase 6-4, 6-2, 9-7 in 109 minutes. Wimbledon championships to a record total of 20... But the men's final, in which Borg beat Nastase 6-4, 6-2, 9-7 in an hour and 49 minutes, was like a dinner in which the quality of the hors d'oeuvres and the dessert surpassed that of the main dish. The promised feast of ground strokes was only half cooked... Nastase began with fluent versatility and had three break points for a 4-0 lead. Then, as if by some form of telepathy, Borg's initial nervousness was transferred to Nastase and stayed with him.



Borg on his way to winning the men's singles

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TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS BOLT - Always passed away peacefully on 2nd July 1998. A wonderful husband who was missed by all his family.

DEATHS BROWN - On 2nd July, suddenly in The Princess Royal Hospital, Haverhill Road, Stevenage, Essex, aged 84 years.

DEATHS DUNLOP - Aline Betty, nee Kelly, died peacefully on 2nd July 1998, aged 82 years.

DEATHS HODGES - David Michael, beloved husband of Fiona, died peacefully on 2nd July 1998, aged 52 years.

DEATHS ALLEN - On 27th July at St. Thomas' Hospital, Catherine (nee Longrigg) and William, a daughter, Grace Marie-Louise.

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Equities end week on firm note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, and DISTRIBUTORS.

Table of equity prices for ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, and FOOD MANUFACTURERS.

Table of equity prices for HEALTHCARE and HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT.

Table of equity prices for LEISURE & HOTELS.

Table of equity prices for OIL & GAS.

Table of equity prices for BRITISH FUNDS.

Table of equity prices for SHORTS (under 5 years).

Table of equity prices for LONGS (over 15 years).

Table of equity prices for UNDATED.

Table of equity prices for INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation.

Table of equity prices for MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

Table of equity prices for INSURANCE.

Table of equity prices for OTHER FINANCIAL.

Table of equity prices for MEDIA.

Table of equity prices for PHARMACEUTICALS.

Table of equity prices for PRINTING & PAPER.

Table of equity prices for MINING.

Table of equity prices for PROPERTY.

Table of equity prices for TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Table of equity prices for TRANSPORT.

Table of equity prices for WATER.

Table of equity prices for RETAILERS, FOOD.

Table of equity prices for RETAILERS, GENERAL.

Table of equity prices for ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Main table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, and DISTRIBUTORS.

Ex-... of C... in ret... to cre... inc...

مركزنا للأصل





**HOT SEAT 28**  
Fireworks from  
a showman  
accountant

# BUSINESS

WEEKEND  
MONEY  
SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY JULY 4 1998

## Hollywood studios among bidders for PFE

By CHRIS AVRES

POLYGRAM Filmed Entertainment, the company behind cinema hits such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *SpiceWorld*, has attracted interest from at least 15 potential bidders, including a number of Hollywood studios and European media companies.

The business has been put up for sale for an estimated \$1 billion by Canada's Seagram, which bought PolyGram, its parent company, for \$10.4 billion (£6.2 billion) last month. Seagram, which owns Hol-

lywood's Universal Studios, bought PolyGram only for its music division.

Goldman Sachs, the merchant bank acting for Seagram, completed the sale documents for PFE on Thursday and is now negotiating confidentiality agreements. One PolyGram source said: "Some of them will be on fishing expeditions, and some will be on ego expeditions. But there are no cowboys on the list; they are all potentially very serious bidders."

Any European bidder will have to convince PFE's management, led by

Michael Kuhn and Stewart Tull, that it has pockets deep enough to develop PFE's highly risky and capital-intensive business. The company expects to break even next year, after a \$1.2 billion investment from PolyGram over seven years. Mr Kuhn *et al* could walk away from the deal if they do not think the buyer is suitable, or if employees are not given stakes in the new company.

Those close to the sale have been surprised by the interest in PFE shown by a number of Hollywood studios, who have previously dis-

tanced themselves from the sale. This will come as devastating news to film enthusiasts in Europe who regard PFE as its flagship.

One of PFE's main assets is its US distribution network, built up by Alain Levy, former president of PolyGram. One source said he was baffled by the interest from Hollywood. He said: "Most have significant catalogues and distribution networks, so why would they want more?"

Analysts believe that MGM would be the most likely Hollywood buyer of PFE. In Europe there are

known to be at least two serious bidders, thought to be France's Canal Plus and Germany's Bertelsmann. There has also been speculation that Italy's Mediaset, Germany's Kirch and Carlton Communications of the UK could put up a bid.

The first round of bidding will start later this month, and will develop into a more serious contest in August. There is still a small possibility that the business could be broken up in these final stages, sources said.

A warning has come from Paul McGuinness, who manages rock artists such as U2 and PJ Harvey — both signed to PolyGram's Island label. He said: "This lengthy period of due diligence and anti-trust clearance is having a destabilising influence, and there is the perception that this is not a good time to be delivering a record to PolyGram."

### BUSINESS TODAY

#### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5288.4	(+28.2)
Yield	2.7%	
FTSE All share	2806.87	(+12.72)
Nikkei	16511.24	(+39.66)
New York		
Dow Jones		
S&P Composite		

#### US RATE

Federal Funds	Closed	(5.25%)
Long Bond		(107.4)
Yield		(5.61%)

#### LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 3/4%	(7 3/4%)
Libor long gtd		
Future (Sep)	108.80	(108.80)

#### STERLING

New York	Closed	(1.6570)
London		
DM	1.6474	(1.6583)
DM	2.9958	(3.0218)
FF	10.0430	(10.1210)
SFF	2.5207	(2.5401)
Yen	229.60	(234.05)
£ Index	106.4	(107.3)

#### DOLLAR

London	Closed	(1.8210)
DM		
FF		
Yen		
£ Index	112.8	(113.2)

#### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$13.95	(\$13.95)
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#### GOLD

London close	\$294.75	(\$294.25)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Ex-chief of CMC in return to credit industry

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

DAVID STEENE, the former head of City Mortgage Corporation, whose "oppressive" lending practices sparked angry protests and an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading last year, is making a comeback in the credit industry.

Sources close to Mr Steene, a staunch Conservative who donated £20,000 to William Hague's leadership campaign last year, say he is seeking to expand into providing credit cards for borrowers with troubled financial histories.

Merrill Lynch, the investment bank which previously lent Mr Steene money on the collateral of his shareholdings in CMC's US parent company, is backing the venture. It has raised £10 million of a target £100 million.

Mr Steene refused to comment. However, while at CMC, Mr Steene often stated his intention to go into the credit card market.

So-called "non-status" borrowers who have fallen into arrears on their loans in the past or who do not have full-time jobs are often considered too risky by high street lenders. However, they are extremely lucrative for smaller, specialist lenders who can charge interest well above the standard variable rate of banks and building societies.

In the four years in which he ran CMC, Mr Steene made £7 million, mostly from profits generated by securitising loans which doubled interest rates to 18 per cent when borrowers fell into arrears. CMC also charged exorbitant redemption penalties which prevented them from escaping.

However, Mr Steene has not abandoned the mortgage

market altogether. He is advising Kingdom Credit and Kingdom Mortgages, two mortgage brokers recently established by Marc Parrott, the former head of underwriting at CMC, who denies he has a formal business relationship with his former boss.

Last month the OFT granted Kingdom Credit a consumer credit licence and the company is already negotiating terms with lenders. Sources say Mr Steene is advising Mr Parrott on how to target borrowers and is arranging finance so that the company can undertake lucrative bridging loans for homebuyers.

Mr Parrott said Mr Steene had simply introduced him to a direct mailing company. "I don't think if I was being introduced by Satan it would make any difference," Mr Parrott said.

The ease with which Mr Steene is returning to the market raises questions about the OFT's ability to regulate the sector.

Last month the watchdog shocked observers by clearing Capital Credit, a broker in Truro, Cornwall, and a mainstay of the CMC operation, of misconduct. John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, had threatened to revoke Capital Credit's licence in December after he was passed four cases of "oppressive" lending and breaches of guidelines introduced by the watchdog last year. However, it had seen no evidence to suggest that the company was unfit to do business. Tony Murtagh, the firm's head, was director of seven companies stripped of their licences by the OFT in the early 1980s.



Ong Beng Seng, the Singaporean billionaire, has moved to quash reports about the financial health of his empire, which has significant London interests. In a wide-ranging interview he also said the West has overreacted to the financial turmoil sweeping Asia. Full report, page 26

## Jobs threatened as Liberty plans cutbacks

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

STAFF at Liberty, the department store and fabrics company that went through a boardroom push last year, were warned yesterday that they may face compulsory redundancy.

The 600 staff jobs are in jeopardy because of a plan by the newly appointed board to cut running costs. Michele Jobling, managing director, declined to put a figure on how many jobs are likely to go.

The company also said that the abandonment of the previous board's plans for a massive expansion of the Regent Street store cost it £10.9 million. This pushes the company deeply into the red. Pre-tax losses in the year to January 31 amounted to £11.5 million, compared with a profit of £4.4 million the previous year.

lower than the same time last year. The bad news sent the shares 25p lower to 195p.

Philip Bowman, chairman, blamed Liberty's financial woes on his ousted predecessor, Denis Cassidy. He criticised Mr Cassidy's plan to spend £43 million on the Regent Street expansion and said that to proceed with it "would have been imprudent in the extreme".

The company has settled its dispute over compensation for former directors Andrew Garety and Ian Thomson, who both received about £150,000. It has yet to reach an agreement with Mr Cassidy, who is suing the company.

The company, which is not paying a dividend, is looking at ways to raise cash to carry out some less ambitious work on its property.

Commentary, page 27

## Rebels to battle on at Oliver

By JASON NISSE

THE rebels fighting to oust Denis Cassidy as chairman of Oliver Group are set to continue their fight despite failing to block the shoe retailer's £5.5 million rights issue.

The motion to approve the fund raising went through by 12.5 million votes to 7.9 million after Flemings, which owns 17 per cent of Oliver's share, decided to back the management. An attempt to raise the money through a placing with institutions was last month blocked by the rebels, which include the Oliver family.

The rebels are unhappy that 1.45 million votes cast under a proxy given to one of their group — Swedish investor, Peter Gyllenharmer — were ruled invalid and are to meet on Monday.

They may requisition an extraordinary meeting to oust Mr Cassidy.

Commentary page 27

## Middleton to step down at Salomon bank

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PETER MIDDLETON, the former monk with a liking for fast motorcycles, is stepping down as European chief executive of Salomon Smith Barney, the US investment bank.

A former chief executive of the Lloyd's insurance market, Mr Middleton will leave at the end of July. He is said to be considering a number of job options, both in financial services and other sectors.

Mr Middleton is believed to have discussed his departure with Deryck Maughan, the head of worldwide operations, before the announcement of the \$140 billion (£86 billion) merger between Travelers, the US financial services company which owns Salomon, and Citicorp.

Banking sources said staff at Salomon had expected Mr Middleton to step down for some time, as he had become increasingly isolated within

the investment bank. Most senior London executives report primarily to global product heads in New York.

Salomon declined to discuss Mr Middleton's salary although it is said to be in seven figures. The bank would not confirm whether he will receive a pay-off.

Mr Middleton, 58, joined Salomon Brothers at the end of 1995 after quitting abruptly as chief executive of the Lloyd's insurance market where he rode to work each day on a Suzuki "roadster-style" motorcycle.

He is said to have walked away from a £50,000 annual bonus when he left Lloyd's. But this loss is believed to have been more than offset by the amount of discounted Salomon shares he amassed before the bank's 1997 takeover by Travelers, the US banking group.

## Poaching of bankers will see pay soar

By RICHARD MILES

PAY is poised to rocket for investment bankers specialising in the technology sector after reports that the high-tech team at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell are being offered up to \$1 billion (£600 million) to move to a rival bank.

Credit Suisse First Boston has already poached three senior executives from Deutsche's high-tech team based in Silicon Valley, California, including Frank Quattrone, the group's chief executive. He alone is said to be in line for \$250 million.

While CSFB says the \$1 billion is way off, banking sources suggested that the European investment bank could easily pay out that much money if all 60 to 70 of Mr Quattrone's team decided to leave. Many are being offered three-year guaranteed deals.

Resigned to the loss of the US operation, Deutsche plans to talk with CSFB next week about selling on the entire operation, which has never been integrated with the rest of the bank. However, it is determined to hold on to its European high-tech team and so remain a player in this key sector.

One banker said it was difficult to believe that CSFB could make the high-tech operation profitable if it offers such exorbitant packages.

THERE was life outside France this week, although the 28 million Britons who tuned in to Tuesday's World Cup match might have thought otherwise. Away from the football, dealers nervously eyed the currency markets, as two of the UK's most powerful players — PowerGen and Nomura — unveiled high-profile deals. Britain's biggest insurer, the Prudential, found itself in the dock over pension mis-selling.

PowerGen announced a £1.9 billion offer for East Midlands Electricity, putting an end to weeks of speculation. The likelihood of a merger with Houston Industries of America prompted the resignation of PowerGen's managing director, Deryk King, who could see no

role for himself in the enlarged company. Nomura unveiled a recommended £1.2 billion offer for Thorn, the electrical appliances rentals group. The deal adds Radio Rentals to a list which includes pubs, railways, military housing and William Hill, the betting chain.

The deal-making was played out against a backdrop of wild sea-sawing on the world's currency markets. Emerging markets came under fresh attack from speculators, heightening fears that

the Asian crisis could trigger a global malaise. Worst hit was the South African rand, which slid past ten to the pound despite steep rises in local interest rates. Pakistan and Mexico were caught up in the blood-letting, although there was some respite for the Japanese yen.

Merrill Lynch swept the board in the annual Exel survey of City analysts, polling almost 17 per cent of the votes in the ranking of pan-European analysts, and almost 19 per cent in the UK sector.

Last year's winner, SBC Warburg Dillon Read, was pushed from the top spot — and dropped SBC from its name, just for good measure.

Elsewhere, The unpronounceable PricewaterhouseCoopers cemented its merger, creating a firm with 140,000 employees and annual fee income of £9 billion.

Farewell Coopers & Lybrand, which joins that whales' graveyard of names which includes Ernst & Whinney, Arthur Young and Peat Marwick Mitchell.

Hilton Hotels Corporation (HHC), the US leisure group, said it was to split its hotel and casino operations, reviving speculation about a possible deal with Ladbroke, which owns the Hilton name outside America. HHC's chief executive, Stephen Bollenbach, turned down a \$75 million (£44 million) share option payout triggered by the demerger, saying the money was "irrelevant".

The Securities and Futures Authority launched a formal investigation into the

£1.7 billion flotation of Thomson Travel Group, after thousands of complaints from private investors. Action could follow against the two main firms involved — Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Warburg Dillon Read.

Volkswagen, having barely begun to digest Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, announced it was holding talks with Volvo, prompting speculation that the two could merge. Sir Peter Davis, chief executive of the Prudential, told the Treasury Select Committee that compensating for pensions mis-selling would come to £1.1 billion — more than double original estimates.

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CABLE & WIRELESS

# Ong constructs concrete evidence of solvency

### Jon Ashworth on the unflagging bullishness of HPL's owner

ONG BENG SENG does not look like a man who is going bust. It has been suggested that he is engaged in some sort of "fire-sale", dumping hotels and luxury brands in a desperate bid to keep the creditors at bay. True, there has been a series of disposals, and shares in Hotel Properties Limited (HPL), his Singapore-listed company, have slid sharply in recent weeks, but British-educated Mr Ong — known as "BS" — appears to be taking it all in his stride.

Evidence of Mr Ong's continuing financial solvency is rapidly taking shape at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands, where the cement-mixers are feeding an ambitious £200 million residential development. A five star hotel and restaurants, 322 apartments, and spa and health club are

included in the first phase of Canary Riverside, which is due for completion in the autumn of next year.

HPL has reduced its stake in Canary Riverside from 50 per cent to 30 per cent, in what has been interpreted as yet another bid to raise cash. Mr Ong says that he has actually increased his investment in the scheme, by using the proceeds to buy 49 of the 86 apartments sold so far. He is investing £16 million in all — on top of his remaining £60 million investment in Canary Riverside — in luxury serviced apartments.

Mr Ong said: "There is no dilution. The net value of our investment has

actually increased. We never felt the need to explain, but now that people have brought it up, we felt we needed to clarify that, in actual fact, we have much more money going in."

HPL's partner in the project is Pidemco Land, owned by the Singapore government, which increased its stake from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. Mr Ong said: "When we first took the 50 per cent, we thought it would be quite easy in London. We suddenly realised it was far away from home, and we didn't have the depth of technical management."

HPL hands the technical side on to

Pidemco, capitalising instead on its expertise in leisure and hospitality.

Liew Mun Leong, president of Pidemco Land, said London held an important place in the company's international portfolio. Pidemco has assets of £2.5 billion and is seeking further opportunities in London.

Mr Ong did not rule out bringing luxury brands such as DKNY and Giorgio Armani to Canary Riverside, but said a decision had yet to be taken. His wife, Christina, holds the UK franchise to several top fashion brands. Mr Ong hopes to make Canary Riverside a focal point for Docklands' workers, with top restaur-

ants — possibly including a Nobu Express or noodle bar — to complement the hotel and luxury spa. HPL is in negotiations with the Four Seasons Group, with which it has a long-standing relationship.

Mr Ong said concerns over the Asian financial crisis had been overstated. He said: "People's perceptions have gone totally haywire. Microsoft's market capitalisation is worth equivalent to four countries' stock exchanges. Bill Gates could sell Microsoft and buy the whole of the stock markets in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. It doesn't make sense." He said the region's high productivity rate and importance as a supplier of goods and commodities would help it pull through in the longer term.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Green Property will not lift Trafford bid

GREEN PROPERTY will not increase its hostile £146 million bid for Trafford Park Estates, the property group based in the North West. The 190p-a-share cash offer was yesterday extended until July 17. Trafford Park, which continues to urge shareholders to reject the bid, says the offer is at a substantial discount to its net asset value of 201p a share, based on a valuation prepared by Lambert Smith Hampton. The values also said they could see a further value of potential development surpluses worth 20p a share. Sir Neil Westbrook, Trafford Park chairman, said: "Green's offer fails to take account of the substantial value that exists within our exciting current development programme and in our strategic land holdings and long-term development sites. Consequently, I still strongly urge shareholders to reject the offer."

Stephen Vernon, managing director of Green, said: "We raised our initial bid, and that's as far as we're prepared to go. The question has to be asked, if the bid isn't realistic, why hasn't some other white knight come in and made a better offer? I'd be amazed if other property companies haven't at least taken a look at what was going on. *Tempus*, page 29

### Goodwill hits Inteltek

INTELEK, the electronic equipment group, raised operating profits from £1.1 million to £1.6 million in the year to March 31 on sales up from £24 million to £30 million. The group, however, registered a pre-tax loss of £3.4 million after charging goodwill on a disposal, previously written off through the reserves, to the profit and loss account of £3.6 million. John Davis, the chairman, said: "Trading during the early part of the current year has improved over the comparable period."

### Friendly Hotels grows

FRIENDLY HOTELS doubled the size of its franchise operation in the Republic of Ireland yesterday with a joint venture agreement to add 12 new hotels. Under the deal, which will make the group Ireland's largest franchise branded hotel operator, the properties will be rebranded as Quality, Comfort and Clarion Hotels and form part of Friendly's 350-strong Choice Hotels Europe chain. The group hopes to develop up to 30 franchise hotels in Ireland over the next five years.

### Logica acquisition

LOGICA, the information technology group, said it could pay up to £30 million for Quastor, the retail banking software system owned by Synetics. Logica has agreed to pay an initial £8 million, including contracts for 75 developers, based in Bangalore, India. In the year to March 31, Quastor made a pre-tax loss of £300,000 and had net assets of the same amount. The acquisition is expected to have no effect on earnings and the further payment of £22 million will be paid before September 30 based on the operation's profitability.

### Hambro buys surveyor

HAMBRO COUNTRYWIDE has acquired for £6 million the surveying and valuation business of Royal & Sun Alliance. The business will merge with Hambro's Countrywide Surveyors division. The purchase price, financed from existing resources and payable in cash, is represented by assets valued at £1.1 million and goodwill of £4.9 million. For the year to December 31, the acquired business made a loss of £147,000 on a fee income of £11.2 million. The acquisition is not expected to be earnings enhancing in the current year.

### Meggitt buys Heatric

MEGGITT, the aerospace and electronics group, has bought the outstanding 40 per cent minority stake in Heatric, the heat exchanger business, and the intellectual property rights used in the business of Heatric for £15 million. A further £5 million will be paid if Heatric's operating profits in 1999 or 2000 exceed £5 million. At completion the vendors will receive a dividend of £4 million. Mike Stacey, the chief executive of Meggitt, said: "Owning the whole of the business allows us to exploit fully the potential of this unique product."

### Waterman tops forecast

SHARES in Waterman Partnership rose 12½p to 55p after the consulting engineer said full-year profits would come in ahead of market expectations. Analysts had been looking for profits of £1.5 million for the year to June, up from £1.1 million last year. Bob Campbell, managing director, said trading had been strong in the second half of the year. Recent work won has included a £40 million contract for the new military college at Shrivenham. House broker Beeson Gregory is now looking for profits of £1.8 million for the year.

### Thomas Walker down

SHARES in Thomas Walker, the engineering group, fell from 36½p to 31½p after the company said that it will lose £200,000 in the year to June 30. Walker said that following the loss of £88,804 in the first half it had anticipated an improvement for the second half. However, this improvement had not materialised because of continuing weakness of trade around the world exacerbated by the strong pound. The company also suffered from a previously revealed bad debt and the costs of manufacturing restructuring.

### Progress in store at Lusty

SHARES in John Lusty held steady at 11p yesterday after the food retailer said it expected to make considerable further progress in the current year. Shareholders were told at the company's annual meeting that operational cashflow remains high but the company has in place a higher proportion of long-term debt than it had hitherto thought prudent. They were reassured that gearing should fall substantially, in percentage terms and that it will also fall in absolute terms.

### AA admits breach of copyright in Ulster

By Jon Ashworth

THE Automobile Association (AA) has paid an undisclosed sum to authorities in Northern Ireland after admitting infringing Crown copyright in maps of towns in the Province.

The case has seen the AA pay royalties plus costs to the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), which is responsible for Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland. However, it continues to contest separate proceedings alleging infringement of small-scale publications in the Province.

Ordnance Survey, the government-owned mapping agency, is also pursuing a long-running claim for breach of copyright against the AA over the alleged use of unlicensed UK town maps. The action relates to the AA Road Atlas, individual AA maps and Thomson Local maps, which the AA produces.

The dispute is a curious one, since the AA and Ordnance Survey publish guides under their joint names. Peter Johnson, managing director, described the case as "a long and very tedious matter". The AA, he said, would always pay royalties when they were found to be due.

# Lord Moyne faces extradition proceedings over Tristor £37m

By Jon Ashworth

AUTHORITIES in Stockholm are reportedly seeking the arrest of Lord Moyne, the former Jonathan Guinness, in connection with charges arising from the alleged misappropriation of £37 million from Tristor, the Swedish investment group.

Bo Skarinder, the Swedish state prosecutor, has asked a court in Stockholm to issue arrest warrants for Lord Moyne, former chairman of Tristor, and for Lindsay Smallbone, the former chief executive, paving the way for extradition proceedings. Mr Skarinder told a local news agency: "I have asked the court to arrest them. They are to be arrested on grounds of embezzlement, swindling and book-keeping crimes."

Lord Moyne could not be reached for comment yesterday. Both he and Mr Smallbone have consistently denied wrongdoing in the Tristor case and are certain to strenuously resist any attempt to seek their extradition. The Swedish authorities have conducted interviews in London with the assistance of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), but the SFO said it had not been informed of any developments in the case.

The court in Stockholm is likely to consider Mr Skarinder's request in August, paving the way for what promises to be a lengthy

extradition battle. Lord Moyne spends much of his time in Ireland. Mr Skarinder could not be contacted yesterday.

The Tristor case has proved a deep embarrassment to Lord Moyne, a former merchant banker, whose book on the Guinness affair, *Requiem for a Family Business*, was published in the thick of the crisis. In March, lawyers acting for Tristor obtained a £40 million *mareva* injunction against the peer, freezing his assets worldwide. The High Court allowed him up to £1,000 a week towards living expenses.

Lord Moyne's troubles began a year ago, when he took a 52 per cent stake in Tristor. Nearly £50 million in Tristor funds went missing soon afterwards, passing through Lord Moyne's London bank account en route to an account in Luxembourg.

Two of the peer's Swedish associates, Thomas Jisander and Peter Mattsson, were subsequently arrested and charged with breaching or assisting a breach of shareholder trust. A third man, Joachim Posener, is being sought by police. Lord Moyne has described himself as an innocent party in the case and says he took immediate steps to protect Tristor shareholders' funds. He issued a statement saying he had been "let down" by associates.



Lord Moyne, who has consistently denied any wrongdoing, is certain to resist extradition

### Sci shares tumble after warning

By A Correspondent

SHARES in SCI Entertainment, the AIM company best known for its Carmaggedon electronic game, fell from 128½p to 82½p after the group warned the stock market of losses for the year to June.

SCI, however, added it is confident of a return to profitability in the year to June 1999 because its results will be underpinned by advances of more than \$2 million (£1.2 million) from a North American rights agreement.

SCI said the games market has declined significantly in recent weeks because of what it described as market concentration on a limited number of hit titles. The company predicted a full-year pre-tax loss of up to £3.4 million.

This will be made up of a £1.9 million pre-tax, pre-exceptional loss after its decision to put back the release of three games from the end of June until later in the summer and £1.5 million of exceptional items. The one-off losses arise from the company's decision to switch game development to external companies rather than in-house teams.

### Doorstep selling of Isas may be cleared

By Marianne Curphey

THE Government is considering allowing insurance companies to sell individual savings accounts (Isas) on the doorstep and charging customers for the additional costs.

The Treasury believes that less sophisticated investors will feel happier buying the new product face to face, but the news will anger consumer groups which have long claimed that charges need to be uniform and strictly controlled to protect investors from unscrupulous salesmen.

All savers will be allowed to hold a combination of cash, insurance products and equities in their Isa portfolios. Industry sources believe the Treasury will decide to cap the annual charges at 1 per cent on the cash and equity element, but allow insurers to charge higher fees for insurance products sold on the doorstep.

Yesterday was the closing date for banks, insurers and building societies to respond to Government proposals for standard costs, terms and access for the new account.

Commentary, page 27  
Weekend Money, pages 51-60

### Nat Power wins its claim over Utd Gas

By Adam Jones

NATIONAL POWER appears to have won a long-running legal battle over a gas supply contract with United Gas, a wholesaler that is part of UtiliCorp of the US.

National Power sued United for more than £20 million plus interest, claiming United had not paid for fuel it was contracted to buy under a three-year agreement signed in 1993.

In its defence, United said that it did not have to pay, claiming the delivery methods employed by National Power were different to those agreed. In the High Court, Mr Justice Goffe ruled in Nat-

ional Power had breached the contract but he ruled that the breach was not material because United had sold on and delivered the gas to third parties.

National Power said it was "very pleased" by the judgment and its lawyers, Denton Hall, said they are now in a position to demand payment of the £20 million-plus.

United, which supplies gas to customers such as supermarket chains, is considering an appeal. In a statement, it described the judge's ruling on the breach of contract not being material as "a

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All vehicle quotations available on request. Information may be required to assess creditworthiness. All quotations for credit are subject to credit checks. \*Final Rental/Contractual Minimum Payment/Value subject to mileage limit condition. Excess mileage charged at 10 pence per mile (incl. VAT)

### TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	
Australia \$	2.75	2.68
Austria Sch	22.05	20.28
Belgium Fr	64.50	62.50
Canada \$	2.538	2.350
Cyprus Cyp	0.318	0.308
Denmark Kr	11.89	11.48
Egypt Pound	5.80	5.19
Finland Mk	8.05	7.72
France Fr	10.50	9.72
Germany DM	5.15	4.80
Greece Dr	527	488
Hong Kong \$	13.59	12.38
India Rs	131	111
Ireland Pi	1.24	1.15
Israel Sh	6.43	5.77
Italy Lit	3124	2877
Japan Yen	244.17	226.64
Malta	0.654	0.625
Netherlands Gld	3.263	3.288
New Zealand \$	3.31	3.07
Norway Kr	13.35	12.42
Portugal Esc	318.85	296.82
S Africa R	11.12	10.18
Spain Ps	286.34	245.84
Sweden Kr	14.13	13.03
Switzerland Fr	2.67	2.57
Turkey Lira	46580	42545
USA \$	1.753	1.610

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers. Rates are at close of trading on 31st June.

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

صكزا من الأهل

# Prudent Liberty makes Oliver hardy



**COMMENTARY**  
by our City Editor

The words "imprudent in the extreme" were used by Liberty's chairman, Philip Bowman, to describe the plans his predecessor, Denis Cassidy, had cooked up for investing £43 million in the famous West End department store. The same words could be used for Mr Cassidy's plans for Oliver Group, the shoe retailer where the genial George is still chairman despite a concerted effort to eject him. Mr Cassidy wants to spend £5.5 million on larding up the Oliver shops so they can take advantage of the dismantling of the British Shoe Corporation.

But it was not only bad management that did for the Sears business: it was also a market place that is inhospitable to traditional shoe retailers, thanks to the impact of both sports shops and Marks & Spencer. Yesterday shareholders backed Mr Cassidy, so we will soon see if the money is being spent imprudently.

At Liberty his plans were stopped in their tracks. Had they gone ahead, Liberty would be in a similar position to Selfridges, which is investing the £99 million on revamping itself in the teeth of a retailing nightmare. The West End department stores depend to a great extent on the tourist dollar. And as many of those potential tourists are paid in the fast-declining yen or the desperately depreciating franc, they are either staying away from London or keeping their

wallets in their pockets while here. Also, in case Mr Cassidy had not noticed, the Bank of England is so pleased with being able to raise interest rates that it seems to want to do so at every occasion. This is making people worried about their mortgages and their jobs. When they are that worried, they are not in the mood to spend on the sort of trinkets sold at Liberty.

On the other hand, there are quite a lot of things you would do to Liberty if you had the time, money and inclination. For example, is there a big department store in any leading city that does not have air conditioning? And how do you shop successfully in a store that is spread, unhelpfully, over two buildings linked by a bridge and with a layout to confuse a carrier pigeon? The answers are not easy and the solution would stretch the greatest of retailing minds. Mr Cassidy is not one of them, and I suspect neither is Mr Bowman.

At issue is the future of the big London department stores. While Harrods continues to live on its reputation, few of the others are thriving and those who pronounced the death of the department store in large regional cities such as Bradford or Glasgow,

might well be writing their obituary in the capital.

If investing heavily in Liberty was a bad idea, then investing heavily in Selfridges may also be flawed and heaven knows what House of Fraser will do with its duo, DH Evans and Dickens & Jones. Meanwhile Mr Cassidy is being pencilled in as the new chairman of Newcastle United, which is as much a retailer as a football club these days. Expect ambitious expansion plans.

## Another nail in Isa's coffin

Those unworried new Labour meddlers are at it again. The original Green Paper proposing individual savings accounts was one of the most muddled for many a year. But Treasury ministers listened. They listened not least to those who would have to market a new product with

inherently less tax relief than the Tessa and Peps it replaced.

The actual proposals made in Gordon Brown's second Budget seemed much more sensible, but this was mainly because Tessa and Peps savers, vast numbers of whom were excluded from the original proposal for fear that they might be middle class, were granted access to Isas. Some of the worst administrative niggles, which had put off potential providers, were also eased.

Yet the fundamental drawbacks of the scheme remain. It is too complex and therefore liable to prove too costly. The Government wants Isas to be easily accessible to all but also wants to hold investors' hands, making Whitehall advisers easy prey to all sorts of folkies from Co-op supermarkets and friendly societies to the ubiquitous Richard Branson. At the same time, barriers have been erected between various bits of the Isa to keep a tight lid on the tax costs.

No wonder the rules are complex. The contradictions they cause are now beginning to appear. First there was the Catmark, potent symbol of the paternalistic tendency. To keep charges down, only index-linked unit trusts were to receive the state seal of value, even if others were permitted up to a maximum charge of perhaps 1 per cent a year. Protests were so virulent that Tony Blair is likely to veto the Catmark altogether.

Charges of anything like 1 per cent on cash Isas would make them an even worse deal than already seems likely. But much higher charges now seem likely to be allowed for insurance policies. The idea is to permit them to be sold door to door in the interest of universal access and high take-up. Forget value for money. Such small life assurance schemes as those allowed in Isas, together with the restrictions needed because of the long-term nature of such policies,

ensure that they are uneconomic. Either insurers use them as loss-leaders, in order to sell more lucrative policies, or charges will be so high that small savers will be guaranteed a bad deal.

Such muddle is both laughable and sad for Isas. Imagine the nonsense that waits in the far more important and worrisome stakeholder pension scheme.

## Losing from the beautiful game

The kudos of hosting a major sporting event — such as the Olympics, the World Cup or even the Commonwealth Games — is undoubted. But the economic arguments, as articulated yesterday by two French economists who predict the country will lose £1 billion from the World Cup, are starting to stack up against these events. Alain Minzeles and Marie-Pierre Ripert have noted that tourism is down, museums are empty and restaurants deserted. Meanwhile the French have spent Fr9.4 billion on hosting the event, much going into the Stade de France, which is in danger of becoming a white elephant as no football team wants it as a home

ground. On the other side of the world, the Sydney games look like becoming the first Olympics since Montreal in 1976 to lose money.

This is in spite of the increasing commercialism that has all but destroyed the amateur ethos and, according to leading footballers, is ruining the beautiful game.

There is an argument to say that it is the commercialism itself that is causing the financial underperformance. The amount of money surrounding big sporting events is making them difficult to manage, as the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 showed. Sports administrators feel they need to invest the amounts they think the games will generate, and when the commercial income is disappointing (as it is likely to be for Sydney) they run into loss. So let us allow the Germans to have the 2006 World Cup.

## In the habit

SO Peter Middleton, the motor-cycling monk, is to leave Salomon Smith Barney, where he has occupied the top post these last three years. It seems that Mr Middleton found his role at Salomon was not quite what he expected. Though given his diverse career — encompassing Lloyd's of London and Thomas Cook — he should have expected the unexpected. I wonder what his next career move will be? Back to the priesthood, perhaps.

# Shell rules out bidding in \$1.6bn Rosneft auction

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL and BP have decided not to take part in the \$1.6 billion (£1 billion) auction for Rosneft, scuppering the Russian Government's attempt to sell off the Siberian oil company.

Shell announced yesterday that it was pulling out of a consortium which included Lukoil and Gazprom. BP made no comment yesterday but industry observers believe there is virtually no chance that the company will make a bid for the 75 per cent stake on offer.

The failure of the second attempt to sell Rosneft is likely to increase pressure on the Russian Government to find a quick fix to its cash crisis. A previous auction for the Rosneft stake at a starting price of \$2.1 billion failed to

raise a single bid last May. That failure coincided with a meltdown in Russia's financial markets and emergency interest rate hikes.

Shell cited weak oil prices but also blamed "difficult financial circumstances in Russia which would require Shell to finance a major part of the bid".

On Thursday, Gazprom, was forced into a settlement with the Russian Government over \$2 billion in back taxes despite admission by the authorities that the state owed equivalent sums to the company in unpaid gas bills. Gazprom had previously warned the market that any bid for Rosneft would need to be funded entirely by Shell.

The clumsy handling of the tax dispute with Gazprom this

week — Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, threatened to seize Gazprom assets — may have sealed the future of the privatisation and could set back other oil projects in an industry that badly needs investment.

Sergei Glaser, of Salomon Smith Barney, said: "The question is whether the decision by Shell relates to events at Gazprom. Maybe in trying to raise money in one place, the Government ruined the chances of raising it elsewhere."

John Browne, BP's chief executive suggested the Russian Government should change its approach to the sale of Rosneft. "It might be better to sell it off in pieces. The parts probably interest different investors," Mr Browne said.

Rosneft is a ragbag of oil assets lumped together at the end of the Russian Government's initial privatisation process. The main attractions include a stake in a production sharing joint venture offshore of Sakhalin in the Pacific. The acreage is thought to contain 2.5 billion barrels of oil as well as large gas reserves. Rosneft also has a potential 20 per cent of the Timan-Pechora consortium in Northern Russia with hydrocarbon reserves of similar magnitude.

Both Shell and BP are still heavily committed to their respective Rosneft bid partners, Gazprom and Sidanco. BP has invested \$500 million in Sidanco hoping that it will lead to the development of gas exports from Eastern Siberia to China.

## Pearson gets \$860m from division sale

By CHRIS AYRES

PEARSON, the media group, will receive an adjusted \$860 million (£522 million) in cash for the sale of Simon & Schuster's reference, business and professional divisions to Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst, the company said yesterday (Rachel Bridge writes).

The deal follows the announcement in May that Pearson is buying Simon & Schuster's education, reference, business and professional division from Viacom for \$4.6 billion.

Pearson had provisionally agreed to sell the businesses to Hicks Muse for \$1 billion, but will now retain all of Simon & Schuster's international business and professional divisions, including its European operations which specialise in technology and computer publishing.

## Troubled Tring seeks finance

By CHRIS AYRES

TRING, the troubled discount compact disc company that plans to merge with Harvey Goldsmith's concert promotions business, yesterday warned shareholders that it would not be able to continue trading without short-term financing.

The company, whose shares are currently suspended, also said it had sold the North American rights to performances by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for \$2.9 million (£1.7 million) to reduce its \$800,000 overdraft with NatWest Bank. It is understood that there has been serious friction between NatWest and Tring.

The Royal Philharmonic rights have been bought by Nasdaq-listed Platinum Entertainment. Platinum will pay for the rights in instalments until June 2000, with

\$400,000 of the price paid in the US company's shares.

Philip Robinson, Tring's chief executive, said he was looking at a number of short term financing options, and that a few possible deals were being planned. Paul Levinson, a large shareholder in Tring who has already lent the company £500,000, and who played a key part in the deal with Mr Goldsmith, is thought to be considering increasing his loan.

Tring faces another trauma on July 23 when shareholders will meet for an emergency meeting to approve its merger proposals. The planned deal with Mr Goldsmith could yet be suppered by Mark Frey, who founded the business with Mr Robinson. The two men recently fell out, and Mr Frey attempted to oust Mr Robinson from the board.

## Lafarge and Petrofina in paint deal

By CHRIS AYRES

PETROFINA, the Belgian oil company, is to spin off its decorative paint interests into a quoted joint venture with the coatings arm of Lafarge, the French building materials group (Carl Mortshed writes).

The combined paint activities of Sigma Coatings and Peimures Badments would have total sales of \$1 billion (£625 million) and would seek a listing on a stock exchange.

Petrofina said that the listing could happen in 2000 putting the group into the top three decorative paints groups in Western Europe. The move follows the takeover of Courtaulds by Akzo Nobel, creating a major realignment in the worldwide coatings market.



Tied down: Roy Bishko told shareholders that sales at Tie Rack had been disappointing

## Tie Rack issues warning

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

THE RACK, the retailer of ties and scarves, warned shareholders that its interim profits will be substantially below expectations, knocking 27 per cent off the value of its already battered shares.

Roy Bishko, chairman, told the company's annual meeting that disappointing sales, particularly in the UK, had left the company with surplus stock. Margins are set to take a hit as the stock will have to be cleared at a discount.

Shares in Tie Rack, which also issued a warning in January, fell from 81½p to 59½p.

Mr Bishko revealed changes to the company's board. Ronnie Flax, joint managing director in charge of operations, has left the company while Brita Eikhoff, joint managing director in charge of buying and merchandising, has taken leave of absence due to ill health.

The company has almost halted its expansion for this

year. To date, it has shut 18 stores and opened 11. By the year end it will have added a net two or three to its 433-strong chain, compared with the usual addition of about 35.

The strong pound and the continuing Asian economic crisis are continuing to hit trade at Tie Rack, which trades from a large number of stores abroad, at airports, and at tourist sites in the UK.

Tempus, page 29

## Milk price rise prompts appeal to MMC

By CARL MORTSHED

THE dairy industry wants the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to intervene over Milk Marque's decision to impose higher prices and scrap rules agreed with the Office of Fair Trading over the conduct of its milk auctions.

Milk Marque, the main distributor of milk produced by farmers in England and Wales, said yesterday that it was raising the price of milk by 2p per litre for its July auction, introducing new contracts and removing its "90 per cent rule" that requires a new auction at lower prices if Milk Marque fails to find buyers for most of its supply.

Milk Marque said it wanted to "turn the tide" on a situation that had caused the price paid to farmers to fall some 25 per cent over a year.

However, dairy industry executives are angry about Milk Marque's unilateral decision. Mike Sheldon, purchasing director at Dairy Crest, said: "It is a clear demonstration of their ability to abuse their monopolistic position."

Mr Sheldon said that prices should have fallen by 0.6p per litre if Milk Marque had taken account of the changes in the value of sterling against European currencies.

The Dairy Industry Federation is opposed to Milk Marque's conduct of the auction and wants it replaced by a system that produces a market clearing price.

# One loose end in VW-Rolls deal

By ADAM JONES

THE sale of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars to Volkswagen was completed yesterday for £479 million, but the German carmaker still has to come to an agreement to license the name.

The final price comprises the £430 million basic payment agreed with Vickers, which put RRM up for sale last October, plus £39 million to reflect a build-up of stocks and an extra £11 million to refund the cash held at the luxury carmaker.

arm to VW for £120 million, a deal that was conditional on the RRM sale going through, should be completed this month.

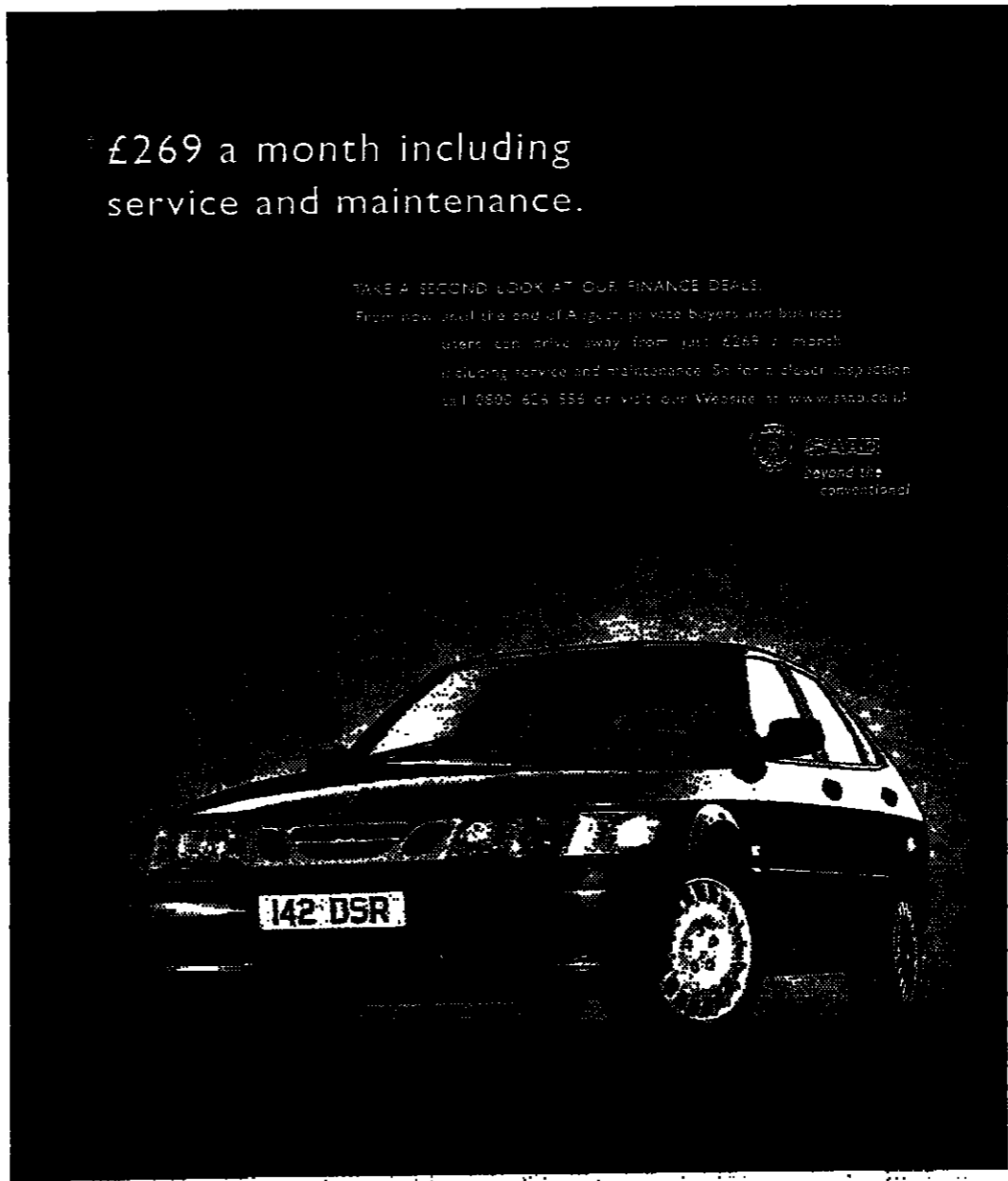
Workers at the Rolls-Royce car plant in Crewe were told in a letter from Ferdinand Piech, the chairman of VW, that Graham Morris will continue as chief executive. Dr Piech refused to say what plans VW has for Rolls-Royce, but said: "There are clearly a lot of questions that need to be answered, particularly in terms of how we work together. For the moment we do not have all the answers."

A spokeswoman for RRM said: "We haven't yet had a chance to sit down and

talk to VW. Everybody is just totally relieved that it's all coming to a conclusion now. It's been a public auction for eight-and-a-half months. It's not been good for anybody at Crewe to live through that. There can only be exciting times ahead."

It is widely expected that VW will introduce a "baby Bentley" to boost sales.

A spokesman for Rolls-Royce plc, the aero-engine company, said there have been no detailed talks on licensing the name and bonnet badge to VW. Throughout the sale, Vickers disputed the aero-engine maker's right to withhold them.



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It's worth a double take.

Stephen Bollenbach is a member of a small tribe. Wall Street calls him a corporate nomad. He puts down his suit carrier in a boardroom for a year or two, sets off financial fireworks, then moves on. Operations bore this showman accountant. He has so far held executive positions at five different multinational companies in the 1990s.

As chief executive at Hilton Hotels, he split the gaming and lodging businesses this week. The demerger was a classic Bollenbach move. The split is likely to set Hilton's share price soaring as the booming hotel company will no longer be held down by the slump in the casino sector. But there remain doubts whether it was clever to give up the long-term synergies between gaming and lodging. In the big resorts such as Las Vegas, the two businesses usually operate under the same roof.

By the time the effects will be felt, however, Mr Bollenbach is likely to have taken his one-man show elsewhere. Number crunchers who are both charming and outspoken are so rare, Mr Bollenbach will always find excessively gainful employment.

The son of a milkman grew up in California. His first job was scooping ice-cream at Disneyland. After his teenage years — mostly spent surfing — he took a bachelor of science degree in finance and an MBA at the University of Southern California.

His first job out of college was to value the house of Clarke Gable's widow, Kay. Mr Bollenbach was

## Showman accountant who lights financial fireworks

working for Daniel Ludwig, a billionaire investor who dealt in anything from property to shipping and oil. The young Californian started to work as his financial sidekick in 1968 while his campus peers demonstrated against Vietnam, inhaled marijuana and indulged in free love. Mr Bollenbach had their easy going manner but the only drug he enjoyed was the greenback.

He was fascinated by Ludwig's unwavering belief in his ability to turn a rum business into a goldmine. "He was unbelievably stubborn," Mr Bollenbach said about Ludwig. "That's what made him wealthy."

The billionaire was in his seventies and enjoyed watching the first bold moves of his rookie accountant. One Ludwig deal in particular convinced Mr Bollenbach of the importance of being obstinate. Ludwig was funneling \$10 million (about £6 million) a week into an Amazonian pulp paper plant. The project spawned a city of 25,000 inhabitants before Ludwig made any money back.

When the Ludwig empire began to crumble in the early Eighties, Mr Bollenbach jumped ship. His apprenticeship had made him an ardent



**CV STEPHEN BOLLENBACH**

Born: July 14, 1942  
 Educated: University of Southern California  
 Family: Married to Barbara May Christensen, two sons  
 Career: DK Ludwig Group 1968-82, Marriott 1982-86, Holiday Inn 1986-90, Trump 1990-92, Marriott 1992-95, Disney 1995-96, Hilton 1996-98  
 Directorships: Hilton, Ladbroke, Time Warner, Kmart, America West Airlines.

admirer of hard-driving billionaires. He may even have harboured dreams of joining their club by hanging around them. He accepted an offer from the Marriott family, owners of the eponymous hotel chain. He

became treasurer and gained a solid grounding in the lodging business that propelled him into the finance director's seat at Holiday Inn in 1986. There he met another billionaire, Donald Trump. They didn't know it then, but they would eventually give each other's career a new lease of life.

Trump was trying to take over Holiday Inn for \$2.8 billion in the late 1980s as he accumulated more debts than properties. Mr Bollenbach, his adversary, instead sold the company to Bass plc, causing one of the few Trump defeats that were not self-inflicted. He was so impressed with Holiday Inn's finance director that he hired him. Trump said: "Bollenbach takes a complex situation and makes it as simple as possible."

As financial situations go, the Manhattan property impresario was facing one of the most complex situations imaginable. He had personal and corporate debts of \$1 billion. Mr Bollenbach haggled with his bankers and scared them off by offering to put Atlantic City casinos into receivership. The bankers were unwilling to run the casinos themselves. Trump's debts came down to \$115 million after a series of debt-for-

equity swaps. Mr Bollenbach's brinkmanship saved not only "The Donald" but also propelled his financier into the limelight.

From Trump, Mr Bollenbach went back to Marriott as finance director in 1992, rising to be chief executive. In this position he first applied the demerger solution to corporate headaches. The split ended up shifting \$2 billion from shareholders to the Marriott family.

In 1995 the Walt Disney Company hired Bollenbach as finance director, but he lasted only ten months. He fell out with the board over the appointment of Michael Ovitz as president, a position Mr Bollenbach had coveted. His prediction that Mr Ovitz was not up to the job proved right and after Mr Bollenbach publicly derided him in Vanity Fair he, too, left Disney.

As Hilton chief executive, Mr Bollenbach had an uncharacteristically difficult start. He aborted take-over bids for Circus Circus (\$4 billion) and ITT, owners of the Sheraton hotels (\$12.8 billion). But the Hilton demerger now gives him the freedom to possibly pursue a merger with Ladbroke Group, which owns the Hilton brand outside America.

It may not make Mr Bollenbach a billionaire, but he may finally be putting down roots. He has bought a \$6.5 million mansion in Los Angeles. And if he is sacked before he decides to move on, Hilton must provide a \$20 million golden parachute.



Stephen Bollenbach is both charming and outspoken

OLIVER AUGUST

## Long-awaited revival for UK's canal system is in the pipeline

Adam Jones finds a pioneering project making good use of one of our most overlooked resources

The UK's canal network is one of our great under-used assets. The odd narrow boat holiday operator, the occasional cargo of coal to a power station — hardly a hotbed of modern commerce.

Those who care most deeply for these inland waterways, with their memories of industrial innovation from centuries past, are unlikely to be a priority in the Government's forthcoming transport White Paper.

A submission from the Inland Waterways Association, a charity representing boat users, industrial archaeologists and other enthusiasts, bemoaned the UK's slowness in fostering projects that could take heavy cargoes off the roads and reduce pollution.

Housing conversions in old wharfside warehouses continue to limit the future ability of canals to handle loads for industry, even though the developments bring superficial glitz.

But it is not all doom and decline. A pioneering UK project is using the canal network in ways its creators — superlative engineers such as Thomas Telford — could never have imagined. In the process, it is providing the network's custodians with much-needed revenue to preserve and develop the resource.

Everyone knows what an annoyance cable-laying companies can be, digging up roads and disrupting traffic. Fibreway, part of the GFI telecoms group set up by GEC and Siemens, has developed an ingenious alternative, designed to cope cheaply with

the demand for new cable capacity brought on by the Internet and other demands of the communications revolution. Instead of tearing up roads and pavements to lay its cables, Fibreway is digging up the canal towpaths and laying them underneath.

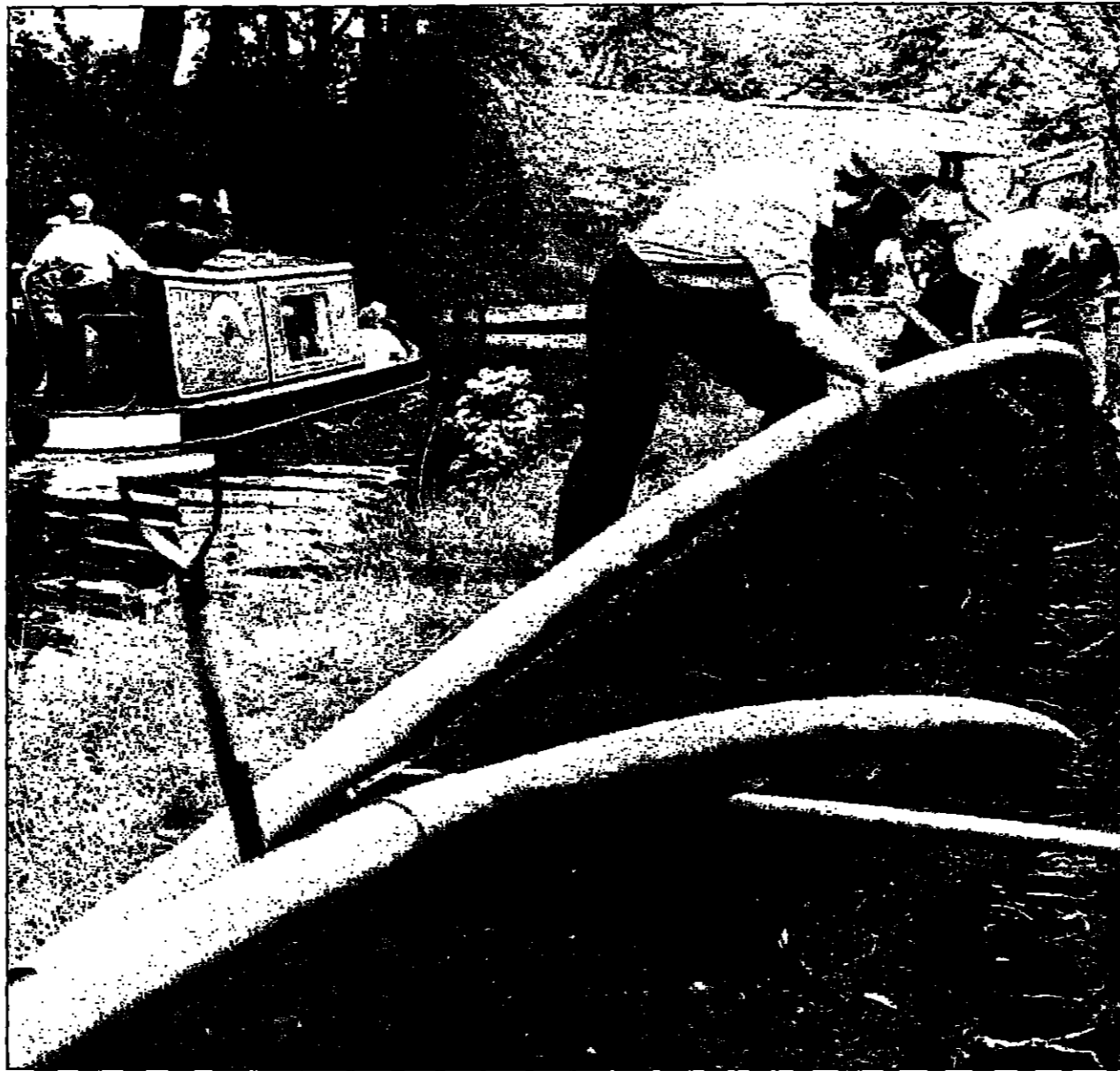
The advantage to Fibreway is that its cables can run in a straight line alongside the canal for long distances, free of interruption. The relative seclusion of the waterside means that accidental damage from roadworks and other maintenance is less likely.

The digging will create a short-term irritation for anyone wanting to walk along the towpath as they are being excavated, but a revenue-sharing agreement with the British Waterways Board is some compensation. Peter Warn, the director of Fibreway, says: "We are still building the network and are now in the second phase."

This envisages a figure of eight that takes in London, Basingstoke, Bristol, Gloucester, Worcester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent, Warwick and Milton Keynes.

Digging is about to start on the picturesque Kennet and Avon canal, a 57-mile waterway linking Reading and Bristol. The Kennet and Avon's history is a familiar tale of engineering excellence followed by decline.

A broad canal, as opposed to one for narrow boats only, the first section was built under the direction of the engineer John Hore between 1718 and 1723. It was completed in 1810, dazzling the commercial trav-



Fibreway hopes to hire its ingenious canal-based cable network to a big foreign communications company

eller with its elegant bridges and aqueducts.

Its decline can be blamed on competition from the Great Western Railway. By the end of the Great War, the canal, always prone to water short-

ages, was difficult to navigate and commercial traffic eoded in the 1930s. By 1951 — three years after the national canal network was nationalised — it had closed. Happily, restoration work in recent years has opened it once more.

Fibreway has also laid cable alongside the old Forth and Clyde canal between Glasgow and Edinburgh, although this link is isolated from the rest of the Fibreway network.

Mr Warn says the typical cost of the canal-based cable network is £40,000 per kilometre, compared with £50,000 for a normal network.

About five to six kilometres can be laid per day. The canals themselves are too shallow to support submarine cabling.

Fibreway does not operate the network itself, it simply hires it out to the likes of Telewest, which uses it to transmit television pictures. The goal is to woo a big foreign communications company that wants to enter the UK. The project may be profitable late next year.

Besides Fibreway, there are other, smaller innovations on our canals. David Blagrove runs South Midland Water Transport, which consists of three pairs of narrow boats, with a combined capacity of about 150 tonnes.

His craft are engaged in a series of trials for Shanks & McEwan, the publicly listed waste management group, moving recyclable materials by inland waterway. Mr Blagrove said: "I think there should be quite a future in this, it's a very green form of transport."

Little diesel is needed to propel the load. It will get to its destination more slowly, but Mr Blagrove believes there are many tasks that are not time-sensitive and could be taken

from our roads, such as the transportation of road stone itself.

Canal transfer is more labour intensive than other forms of transport, but he says it might be a price worth paying "if the country is serious about wanting to alleviate road congestion".

Until then, Mr Blagrove will continue trading in a much smaller way, relying on regular earners such as runs up and down the Thames with supplies for residents of Eel Pie Island and other hard-to-get-to spots.

The British Waterways Board, which administers most of the canal network, is understandably resisting one commercial suggestion: splitting it

up into franchises for private operators. This would effectively put it out of a job. Ian Valder, of the BWB, says: "We don't think it would properly protect the network." The BWB gets between £20 million and £50 million a year from commercial activities, much of it from property development in areas such as the Limehouse Basin in East London.

But it also sells water to water companies struggling with drought, receiving about £3.5 million a year. Delivering the water can involve creating an artificial current and shifting it 100 miles. Best of all, the BWB can simply loan its water to power stations for cooling: "They just give it back to us a bit warmer."

## Horst trading

IF YOU ring the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's London head office you will be told that there is as yet no president to replace Jacques de Larosière, who retired in January. The contest is in actual fact over, with the victory to a German, and the leading French candidate has just lined himself up a new job in consolation. Philippe Lagayette, favourite of Jacques Chirac, the French President, is the new boss man for J P Morgan in Paris.

I cannot bring myself to recount the squalid machinations and manoeuvrings behind the EBRD story, but if you think any of these appointments have anything to do with merit, think again. Lagayette's bid was torpedoed and he was never formally nominated because of Chirac's fit of pique this spring over the other big banking post, head of the European Central Bank, but that is another story.

The slate of nominations for the EBRD job is now closed, and there is but one name on it, Horst Kohler. He will be formally elected later this month, but Kohler, appropriately enough one of Helmut Kohl's bag men, has already been putting himself about the post European business press for fawning profiles.



● THIS is stupid, but true. Forget those Outward Bound jogs over the Gramplains, the abseiling with the guys from marketing, the chance of getting the human resources director with a paintball. The latest hot tip in activity-based training, when employees are sent away to work together and bond, is chocolate.

A firm called Fresh Tracks is running courses. You get 90 minutes to make a box of chocolates, including the packaging, which you paint yourself. There is optional marketing, budgeting and the rest. So far employees from Pepsi, British Airways and Sainsbury's have done the course, and Standard Life is next. And yes, you are encouraged to eat the product. I had always assumed these "training sessions" were an excuse for a jolly at the employer's expense, but sitting around all day eating chocolate?

**Each-way bet**

LIKE the St George flags still flapping disconsolately from a thousand white transit vans, the various football-linked advertising campaigns will continue to run this summer to remind us of Tuesday's defeat.

In France, I hear, things are slightly different, and Adidas there has drawn up two matching campaigns featuring the still-competing French team. One says "Victory is within us", but a second has quietly been prepared with the line "When you've lost everything, you'll still have Adidas".

In my researches, I uncover an entirely useless but interesting fact. Did you know that in Britain the transfer fees paid to clubs here for players sold to overseas ones are counted as part of the country's invisible exports? This information is especially useless because in September, for some obscure Brussels-related reason, they will no longer be. But the notion, after the past few weeks, of anything to do with our footballers being invisible is a strange one.

**High finance**

SOME snippets from Canary Wharf. A funny story reaches me from when the banks pulled the plug and the development went bust. On that day one of the directors, Robert John, went home to explain the sad news to his three sons. Two took it well, but his eight-year-old was especially upset. "I've got ten pounds saved up," the child said. John quietly explained that it was more a question of ten billion. His son turned to his brothers. "How much have you got?"

Anyway, I also hear that Ong Beng Seng, the Singaporean billionaire building a luxury hotel there, has pretty well decided which restaurant to put in. This will be the area's most expensive eatery, and a natural magnet for the great and the good. It will probably be a variation on Nobu, the fantastically pretentious Japanese-Peruvian chain, one of which he has already installed at the Metropolitan hotel on Park Lane.

MARTIN WALLER

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مكتبة الأصيل

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Confident investors push FTSE towards 6,000 level

GROWING optimism that the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee will choose to peg rates at next week's meeting carried share prices back above the 6,000 for the first time in almost a month.



David Maloney, left, financial director and Alun Cathcart, who saw Avis shares grow 9p after a meeting with brokers

This week's distributive trades survey made depressing reading and was backed up yesterday by the purchasing managers survey showing a decline in activity.

stretching the loss on the week to 181p. The Asian economic crisis and the strong pound are taking a dreadful toll at the Rack, down 22p at 59 1/2p.

Peninsula & Oriental has impressed brokers at a presentation in Barcelona this week. The cruise operation is said to be enjoying buoyant trading.

A good indication of the loss of confidence in the clothing sector by investors is highlighted by newcomer Marchpole, the fashion retailer. The price touched a low of 44p yesterday before rallying to close 9p better at 67 1/2p.

BAT Industries stood out with a rise of 2 1/2p to 63 1/2p after some encouraging comments from Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, which has upgraded its profit numbers for Zurich Insurance.

A warning about full-year losses also left SCI nursing a fall of 46p at 62 1/2p. The video duplication group complained that the rescheduling of some titles will result in a loss this year.

There is still some value in the oil sector despite the latest attempt by Opec members to boost the crude price by cut-

ting back on production. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, likes British Boreas, up 7 1/2p at 31 1/2p, and has been recommending the shares to clients as a "buy".

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MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent stock issues including AdvVal Group, Advance Dev Mkts, Anglo Siberian Oil, Biocempts Wis, etc.

RIGHT ISSUES

Table of right issues including LEPCO n/p (40), Martin Int n/p (36), Omnidia n/p (60).

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major stock price changes including Rife & Nolan, Filtronic, Real Time, Laird, etc.

FALLS

Table of falling stock prices including Tie Rack, Liberty, Pison, GRE, Norwich Union, GUS.

Closing Prices Page 24

TEMPUS Corporate bonding

DAVID ROUGH, chief investment officer of Legal & General, is right to bang the corporate bond drum, as he did yesterday.

There are hurdles to leap if corporate bonds are to grow in importance. Chiefly, companies need to be convinced of the merits of bonds, and merchant bank advisers need to be willing to promote bond funding, which can be less lucrative to them.

Trafford Park

THE hostile £130 million bid for Trafford Park, the Manchester property company, by Dublin-based Green Property, is not about Trafford's ability to sustain itself as an independent entity.

Shareholders, of course, need take no action until at least the July 17 closing date for the Green offer. If no other bid appears, however, the temptation to take the Green offer will be overwhelming.

Tie Rack

RETAILERS are by their very nature optimistic, and none more so than Roy Bishko of Tie Rack.

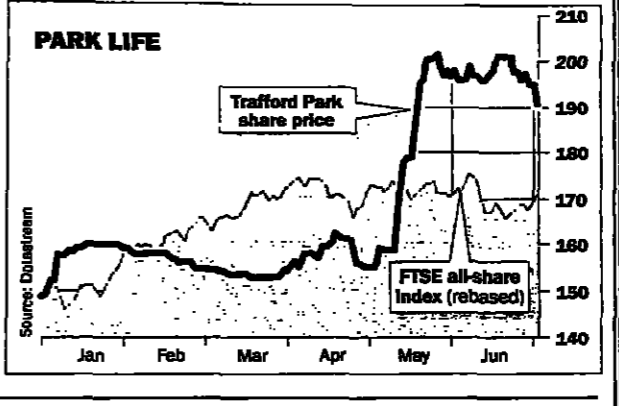
The market had expected some results from Parkland earlier this month, but they have not come and there is little sign of them arriving.

Parkland

WHAT is happening at Parkland? Even by the standards of the textile sector — such as a ragbag of poorly performing companies trading on their former glories — Parkland has been through the mill over recent months.

Mr Jackson, it seems, is planning some radical moves. These might involve some spilling of red paint on the profit and loss account but might just revive Parkland's fortunes.

Having shaken out one EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Table of stock movers including SCI Entertainment, Tie Rack, Vodafone, etc.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, etc.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices including AMF Inc, AMR Corp, AT & T, etc.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life insurance options including various policies and rates.

MONEY RATES

Table of money rates including Prime Bank Bills, Sterling Money Rates, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS

Table of European money deposits including Currency, 7 day, 1 month, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (PRICE & CO)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Kruggerand, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates including Mix Rates for July 3, Amsterdam, etc.

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NEWS

Princess's image 'belongs to world'

The face of Diana, Princess of Wales, should belong to the world instead of becoming the property of her memorial fund, the Patent Office has decided after a seven-month investigation.

Security increased over Ulster impasse

Security forces in Northern Ireland geared up for a massive operation to keep the Province functioning as hopes of a Drumcree compromise faded and the first police cordons were thrown round Portadown.

World Cup flop

The biggest and most hyped World Cup is set to prove a financial flop, leading economists say.

Chess scholarship

A Russian chess prodigy, 14, who has rarely left her remote Urals town, has won the first Kasparov Chess Scholarship to attend a school in England.

Salmonella success

Scientists have identified the gene in chickens that makes some birds resistant to salmonella.

Christie wins

Lindford Christie won a pyrrhic High Court libel victory against John McVicar which left the Olympic gold medalist £50,000 out of pocket.

Matter of pride

Gay marchers in London today are to be asked to buy £50 shares to help to save Europe's biggest gay and lesbian festival.

The Queen 'not amused' by non-goal

The Queen shared the nation's grief when Sol Campbell's disallowed goal in effect put England out of the World Cup.

British record

A British powerboat broke by eight days the 38-year-old record for voyaging around the world - taking 74 days, 20 hours and 58 minutes.

Berlin reborn

Potsdamer Platz, once Berlin's hub, is about to be reborn as the world's best architects see the realisation of their dreams.

General murdered

Russia was shocked to learn that Lev Rokhlin, a popular general, had been shot dead at his country home.

Mission Mars

A lightweight spacecraft, Planet-B, due to blast off today from southern Japan will collect data on the Martian environment.

Clinton call

In his most forthright call yet for radical change in China, President Clinton said democracy was "a universal aspiration".



Ann Widdecombe, Shadow Secretary of State for Health, serves Martha Fowler breakfast at Guy's Hospital yesterday. She said of the nurses: "It has been great to meet them, their dedication and hard work is a tribute to the NHS on its 50th anniversary." Page 18

NEWS FEATURES

Michael Owen: England may be out of the World Cup but he is about to conquer the planet.

Fact and fiction: A woman accused of trying to kill her daughter is said to have been convicted in a book.

Valerie Grove: The pioneer women of Gorton and Newnham made no fuss when they were excluded from full Cambridge membership.

Mission Mars: A lightweight spacecraft, Planet-B, due to blast off today from southern Japan will collect data on the Martian environment.

OPINION

Tocqueville's law: From Russia's last Tsar to South Korea's Roh Tae Woo, history is full of "gentle tyrants" who find a bonfire waiting at the road's end.

Coming in: It would not serve the majority of homosexuals well to be equal but separate.

All-round sports: This has been a bad week for British sport. But its future looks quite robust.

Scottish devolution: Royal Opera House.

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Public pressure can recapture public space for uses other than cars.

Ben MacIntyre: Thousands who pass... will not object: there is a casual acceptance of racism in France.

Alex O'Connell: Friday/Saturday/Sunday listings are becoming increasingly difficult to digest.

Martin Seymour-Smith, author: Lucia Nogueira, artist; Pat Davis, ex-Foreign Manager. The Times.

BUSINESS

Film sale: Polygram Filmed Entertainment has attracted interest from 15 potential bidders.

Store shock: Liberty's abandoned Regent Street expansion cost £10.9 million, plunging it into an £11.5 million loss.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose to 5988.4. Sterling's tradeweighted index fell to 106.4 after a fall to \$1.6474 and DM2.9958.

Football memorabilia for sporting collectors.

SPORT

World Cup: France are in the semi-finals, winning a penalty shoot-out against Italy 4-3.

Third Test: South Africa continued to make England suffer as they reached 487 for four. Gary Kirsten scored 210.

Wimbledon: Jana Novotna and Nathalie Tauziat meet in the women's singles final.

On blocks: A museum houses the Soviet leaders' supercars.

SECTIONS

the times
Cover story: Queen Noor takes on Diana's landmine battle... Page 28
Life: Absent fathers meet their long-lost daughters... Page 76
Fashion: Tanita twists again... Page 68
Fever pitch: Three tenors put to test... Page 18

memo
big interview: Harrison Ford... Page 6
Big album: The Beastie Boys... Page 12
Books... Pages 16-23
Crafts: Janice Blackburn goes beyond doilies and W.I. jam... Page 24
Listings... Pages 26-43

WEEKEND

Early delivery: Having baby in the street... Page 1
Mean delivery: Village cricketer's changing face... Pages 2, 3
Special delivery: 20 wives under £12.50... Page 7
Deliverance: Eco-warriors try to save a valley... Page 8
Travel: On your bike - in Ireland... Pages 24, 25

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels
Boot-ful - the ultimate fantasy footballer

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,835

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 496, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-29 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS
1 Great pains taken with this old hand-press (10).
7 Part of the arm of the law for Collins? (4).
9 Soldiers parachuting - a bit of a shower? (8).
10 Relax steno attitude about period of austerity (6).
11 Like a seabird following ship (6).
12 Found mean way to claim antique (8).
13 Condemn monk to eat nothing (4).
15 Clones are, anyway (3,3,4).
18 One late with the rent? Law having no effect (4,6).
20 At first, don't bother to lower wall (4).
21 Good speaker rejected material outside grasp (8).
22 Artistic peaks, Everest included (6).
24 Better propeller for boat (6).
27 One deserting a place of duty scoffed (8).
28 Daily spell shortened (4).
29 Solid capacity of Prohibition Act? (3,7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20829 and 20834. Includes words like MUSTARD, SHORTEN, NOTRE DAME, etc.

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910. Inside 922. 923 and Link Roads 0336 401 746.

Weather by Fax. Dial 0336 followed by area number from your area. West Country 416 326. N. Ireland 416 341.

World City Weather. 153 destinations world wide. 6 day forecasts. by Phone 0336 411116. by Fax (Index page) 0336 416233.

Monitoring. Europe Country by Country 0336 401 887. European fuel costs 0336 401 886. French Frontiers 0336 401 887.

Hours of Darkness. TODAY. Sun rises 4:50 am. Sun sets 9:20 pm. Moon rises 1:48 am. Moon sets 4:00 pm.

Full moon July 9. London 9:29 pm to 4:51 am. Edinburgh 10:00 pm to 4:36 am. Manchester 9:40 pm to 4:47 am.

High Tides. TODAY. AM HT PM HT. Aberdeen 9:12. Ayr 9:12. Belfast 6:37.

Highest & Lowest. Thursday. Highest day temp: Glasgow airport 22.2 (25.4 lowest day temp: Sola, Norw. Shetland 11C (8.0P) highest rainfall: Luton, Bedford and Concord 0.8 (2.1) highest sunshine: Tevel, Israel 16.0 (2.0) hours. 15 1/2.

FORECAST

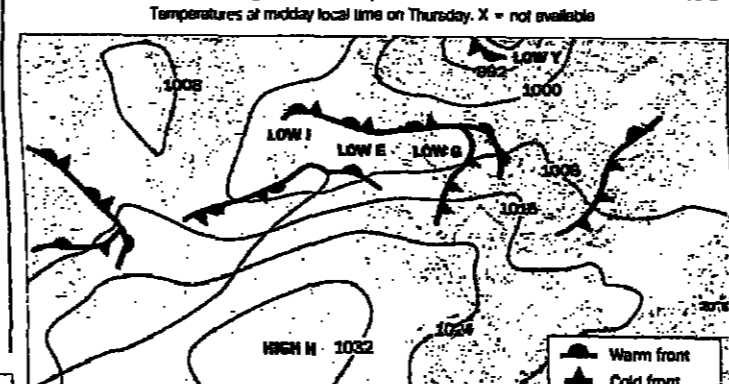
General: northern Scotland will be cloudy and blustery with occasional rain. Southern Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England will be cloudy but any early drizzle will die away. Wales, the Midlands and southern England will be mostly dry with any early low cloud clearing to give good spells of sunshine, especially on the Channel coast.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

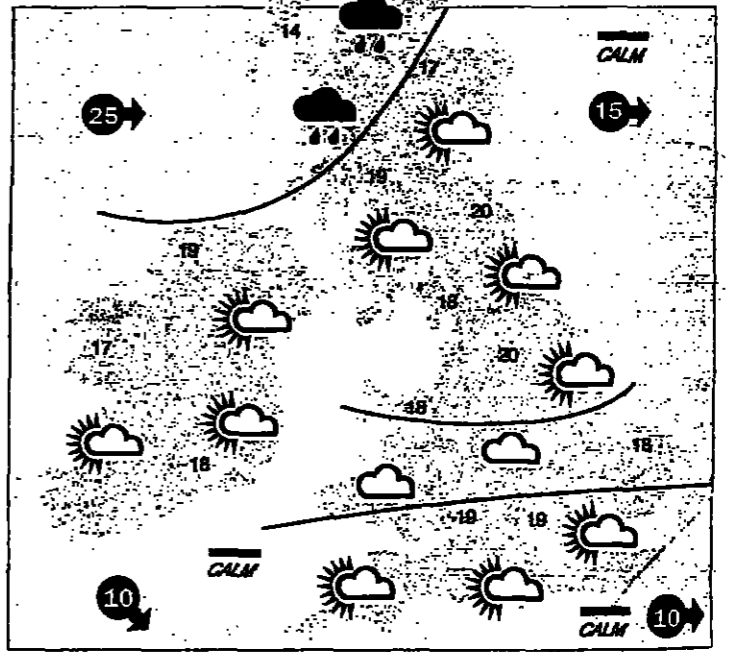
Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday. Columns include location, sun, rain, wind, and temperature.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad. Columns include location, sun, rain, wind, and temperature.



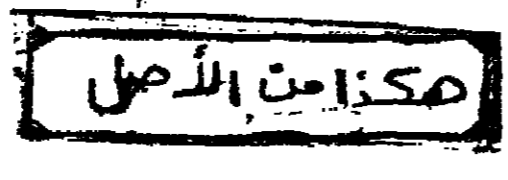
WIND TODAY



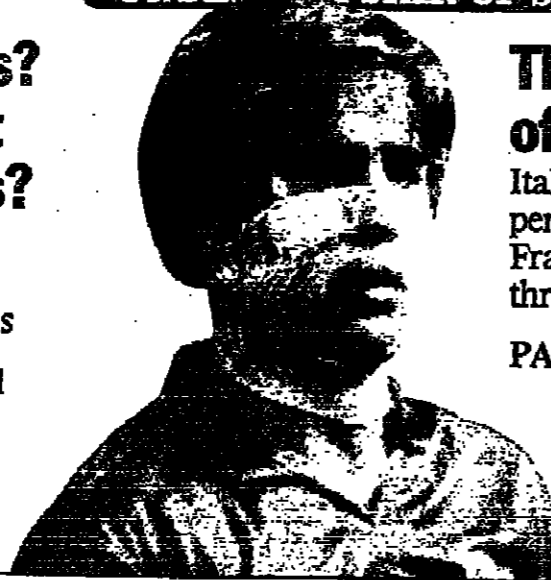
TORONTO OR NEW YORK. BA747 to Toronto • five nights at deluxe Sheraton • Niagara with helicopter • city tour • luncheons • theatre • Concorde superonic to Heathrow • depart on 4 July, 1 Aug, or 3 Oct. £1,999. PARIS OR THE FJORDS. Eurostar First Class to Paris on 10 July • two nights • city tour • Concorde subsonic to Heathrow £399. QUEZ AND ORIENT-EXPRESS. Orient-Express to Southampton on 20 July • eleven night QUEZ Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to the Norwegian Fjords • Concorde superonic from Bergen £2,999.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the news material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Changes to the chart from noon: lows E, G and I will amalgamate and deepen as they head east; high H will intensify as it drifts southwest, low J will fill as it drifts away east.



**Crisis? What crisis?**  
Cricket in the doldrums  
PAGE 41



**The face of failure**  
Italy pay the penalty as France go through  
PAGE 36



**Danny Baker**  
Why Gazza would have made the difference  
PAGE 35

**PLAY TEAM GREEK**  
£50,000 worth of cash & Vauxhall cars to be won  
PAGE 47



**FAMILY MONEY**  
**INVEST IN FOOTBALL MEMORIES**  
PAGE 51

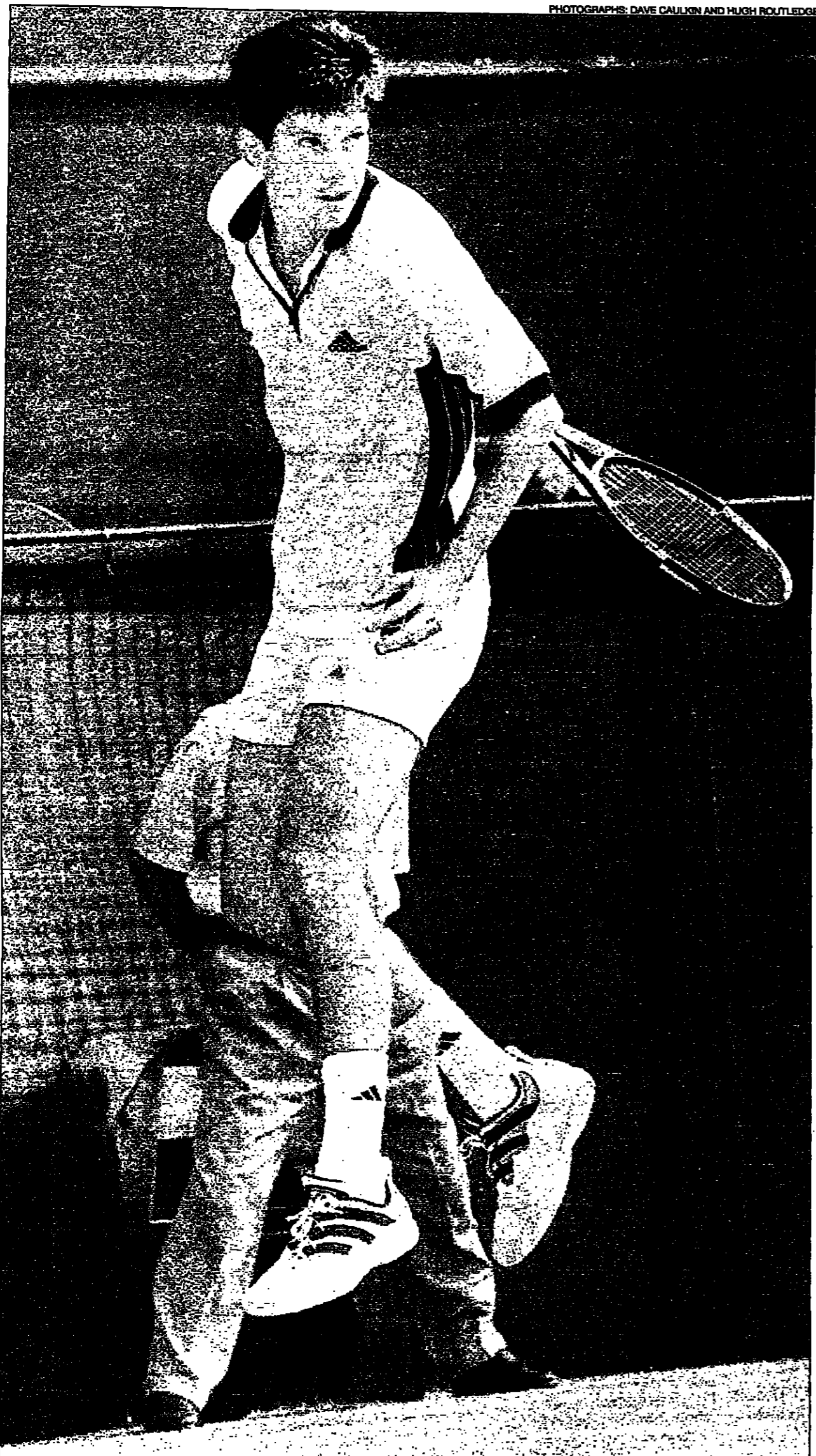
**go**  
**UNCLE JOE'S FLASH CAR FETISH**  
PAGE 47, 49

# THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT 16 PAGES

JULY 4 1998

## CHAMPION TURNS BACK BRAVE BRITISH CHALLENGE

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVE CAULKIN AND HUGH ROUTLEDGE



# Henman brought down at court of King Sampras

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE defeat sustained by Tim Henman in the men's singles semi-finals at Wimbledon yesterday served to underline just how great a player is Pete Sampras, the champion.

On a great occasion, before a raucous Centre Court, Henman was behind before he levelled the match to herald a third set of such drama and intensity that one could not help but feel for him when he lost it. He did so because Sampras, somehow, contrived a series of shots from deep inside his repertoire. The way that he broke Henman in a crucial eleventh game bore the hallmark of greatness.

Yet Henman came so close to dethroning the man recently voted the outstanding player over the past 25 years by his peers. The smile that Sampras wore at the match's conclusion told how Henman, bidding to become the first British finalist since Bunny Austin 60 years ago, had scraped his skin in a dust-up of stunning intensity.

"One day he is going to win this thing. I can tell you that," Sampras said, after his 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory. "It was my toughest match by far. I play for these [grand-slam] titles and to compete against players like him is what it is all about. There was a lot of emotion out there." It was fitting that Sampras should close out the match with an ace. Anything within Henman's reach was in danger of coming back at the champion with interest.

That Henman was disappointed not to make more of his chances demonstrated the strength of his ambition. "I dug my heels in and created a lot of opportunities," he said. "It gave me a lot of confidence and I built on that. The final score is irrelevant — it's about winning and losing. I think it was the most intense match I have ever played in and I think I responded."

Henman was true to his advance forecast in the opening exchanges. He was not at all fazed by the sight of Sampras on the other side of the net. Both men served so powerfully that it was full nine minutes before either player could strike a clean return. The Briton matched the American in every department, stating his intent by conjuring the first break point

in the fifth game. Sampras responded with an ace and went on to break Henman twice in succession to capture that opening set.

These were the only two games in which Henman's first service fell below a 50 per cent success rate — and Sampras duly capitalised. The setback disorientated Henman, whose disappointment was palpable. Sampras seemed determined to drive home his advantage. He opened the second set with a love game and Henman's face began to betray his angst. His service fell away; he double-faulted as the intensity that sustained him fell away.

Fortunately, however, Sampras was slack in response and he survived a game that



Simon Baraes ..... 33  
Ivanisevic triumphs ..... 33  
Results ..... 33  
Tausiat ready ..... 32

had dropped it, would almost certainly have sealed his fate.

It was to prove a pivotal moment. Henman immediately regrouped by shattering Sampras's seemingly impregnable service. He lobbed the champion be-

fore outmanoeuvring him with a sweet pass to reach 0-40, and converted the chance when his opponent allowed a backhand half-volley to drift wide. Remarkably, Henman repeated the trick two games later, Sampras missing a difficult forehand volley to find himself trailing 4-1.

In seven minutes Henman had achieved what had taken Sampras's previous opponents more than eight hours: he broke the champion twice to win the set and a huge cheer

greeted Henman's thunderous love service game that levelled the match after 65 minutes. So intense were the exchanges that Henman's coach, David Felgate, was reduced to a quivering wreck on the sidelines.

From here the match evolved into a gripping duel for superiority. Henman had the measure of Sampras's booming service and it was the champion whose composure crumbled. Early in the third set, Sampras stepped up his protests over a series of dubious line-calls. He was slow hand-clapped by the crowd and vented his frustration after the next point.

After breaking the frame of his racket on a fierce Henman service, Sampras tossed the racket recklessly into the crowd. His frustration was plainly obvious.

Henman had succeeded in prizing Sampras from his cocoon of dominance. It was now anyone's match. Henman gained in stature as the crowd, like the player before them, started to believe that he could beat the champion. No longer was Sampras the imposing figure that had reached the semi-final without dropping a set.

Henman saved a break point in vintage fashion, a sublime low volley off a searing Sampras return landing deep into the champion's forehand corner. The match was reaching its crux as both players traded blows to 5-5 in the third set. Another thunderous service game from Sampras carried him ahead before he contrived some mighty returns to usher the match his way.

Henman, serving at 5-6, had already staved off two set points when Sampras brilliantly got his forehand to a service that bisected the centre line. The ball flew off his racket and beyond the advancing Henman to set up a third set point, and this time, Henman's effort to intercept Sampras's cross-court pass saw the ball rap the top of the net-cord.

There was an inch in it, but a country mile in its significance. With the third set under his belt, Sampras duly galloped off with the fourth to secure his fifth final in six years.



Sampras is fully stretched before completing his four-set semi-final victory over the Briton

Henman tries every trick in the book in his unsuccessful bid to dethrone the Wimbledon champion yesterday

**THE WORLD CUP TODAY** <http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup>  
Holland v Argentina, 3.30 (BBC1), Germany v Croatia, 8.00 (BBC1)

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TENNIS

# Tauziat prepares to enjoy limelight

By Alex Ramsay



IT MAY not quite be the dream final that everyone had in mind at the start of the All England Championships, when all the talk was of the teenage revolution, but for Jana Novotna and Nathalie Tauziat it is a dream nevertheless. Eyeing the end of their careers with some suspicion, time is running out for both women in their search for that first and elusive grand-slam title.

Not that either woman is prone to flights of fancy at the moment. Novotna has a new air of pragmatism about her while Tauziat has never been one for the airy-fairy things in life. Born in Bangui, in the Central African Republic, she started playing tennis at the age of six with a journalist friend of her parents to help her.

She came to France when she was eight and started working with Regis de Camaret, who has been her coach ever since. It is not much of a lifeline, but Tauziat is not one to give much away.

On court she looks a dour opponent, poker-faced and, until she fell to the floor in sheer delight

after winning her semi-final, not one to show much emotion. Her game has no great weapons, she is not particularly fast or strong, she is, at best, an efficient grass-court player and yet, while Mary Pierce has revelled in the limelight in France, Tauziat has got the results this year.

She enjoys the fact that no one really knows who she is or where she has come from. "I am someone who lives my life and I don't care if I am in the shadow," she said. There is nothing flashy about her and the nearest brush with celebrity she can claim is being a distant cousin to Didier Deschamps, the captain of the France football team.

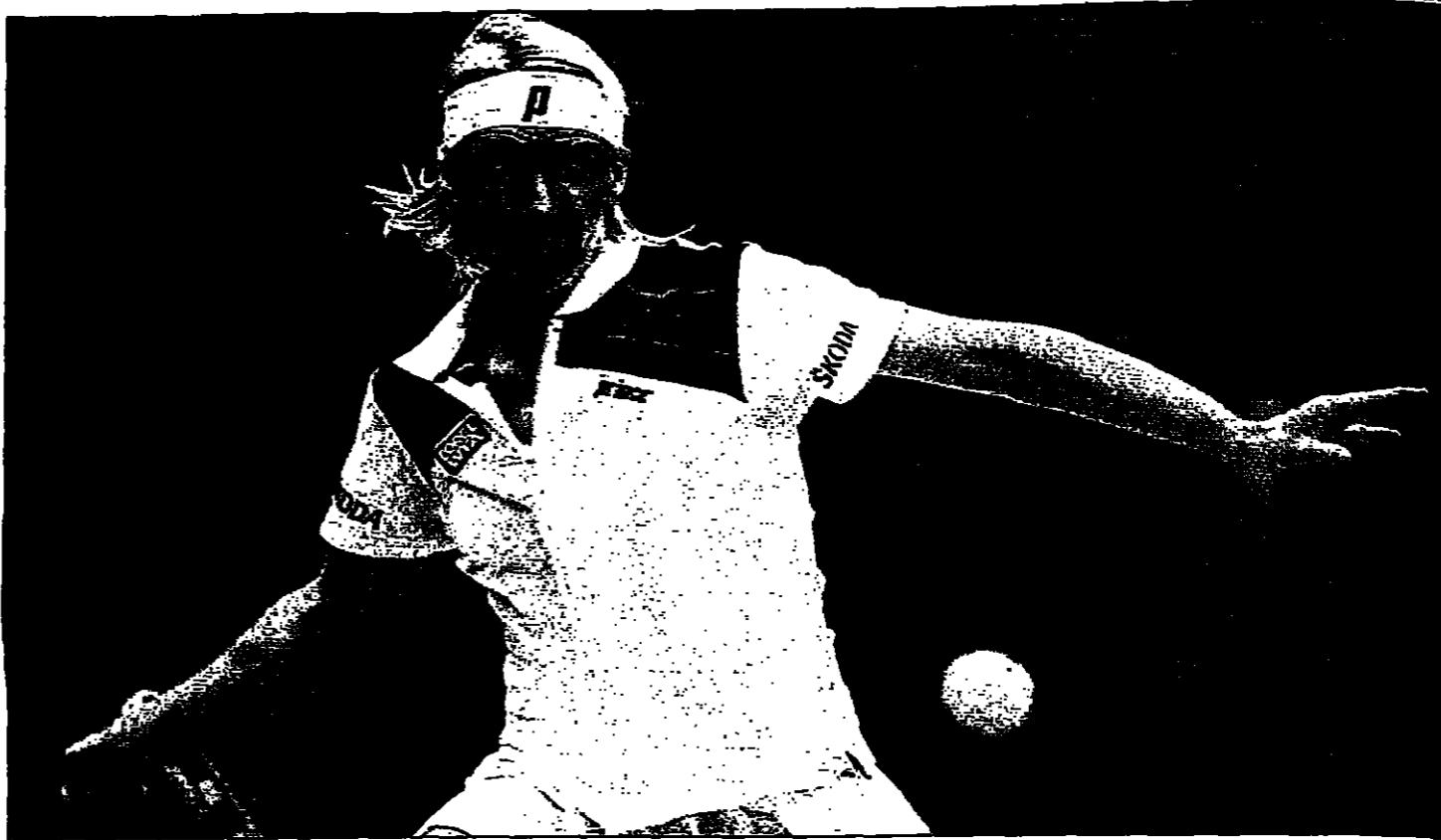
It is not much of a brush, though, as she has never met him. Still, what she lacks in star quality she more than makes up for in determination.

Last year at Wimbledon she was on her way out of the tournament against Sandrine Testud. As Testud stood at match point in the second set the heavens opened. Back after the rain delay, Tauziat won 12-10 in the third set.

Giving in has never been in her makeup, but she has never been in a grand-slam final before and, just by getting there, she looked to have achieved her lifetime ambition. "For me, it's going to be a nice present to be there," she said.

Novotna, on the other hand, has been there twice before and the only ambition she has yet to achieve is to win the title. For all the talk of her memorable failures here, Novotna has the remarkable gift of only remembering the good bits.

Last year had seemed to be her best chance to claim the silver tea tray, but an injury provided one too many hurdle for her. To clear



The superb performances of Novotna, above, and Tauziat at Wimbledon have put the young pretenders in the shade

Looking back she has no regrets and no bitterness; she only thinks of the great matches and the excellent tennis that took her to the final.

This time around she is confident and happy. Whatever anyone else says about her nerve—or lack of it

—is of no consequence. Novotna knows she can win. Martina Hingis, whom she overcame in the semi-final, knows it too, and said as much. Venus Williams, her quarter-final opponent, would probably never admit it, but she must realise that the sort of game Novotna

played against her is the kind that wins tournaments. Big tournaments. Since returning to the grass at Eastbourne three weeks ago, the No 3 seed has been getting better and better: she is a woman on a mission.

The crowd will be behind her, the

Duchess of Kent will be behind her and she is the sentimental favourite. But Novotna is not getting carried away.

"The job is not finished yet, I still have work to do," is her assessment. So much for dreams and fairytales.



HOW NOVOTNA AND TAUZIAT MEASURE UP			
J NOVOTNA		N TAUZIAT	
30	Age	31	
No 3	Seeded	No 18	
5ft 9in	Height	5ft 5in	
1,880lb	Weight	120lbs	
\$8,827,548	Career prize-money	\$3,178,107	
6	Grand slam titles	0	
21	Career singles titles	4	
	Wimbledon 1998		
6	Matches	6	
1	Sets dropped	3	
62%	1st serves in	44%	
90%	2nd serves in	90%	
14	Aces	26	
13	Double faults	24	
	Service speed (mph)		
	1st	Max: 102 Av: 98	
	2nd	Max: 93 Av: 79	
Max: 112 Av: 95			
Max: 93 Av: 83			

### BOWLS

#### Wily Wood is Scots' rink master

SCOTLAND retained the News of the World Trophy at Ayr Northfield yesterday, but owed much to the weakest team in the tournament, the Channel Islands, who took four points off England, and made the Scots' task easier (David Rhys Jones writes).

England finished level with the host country, with three wins in four matches, and boasted a superior shots difference, but the Scots had more winning rinks over the five days, and thus earned more bonus points.

The proudest man in Scotland's side was undoubtedly Willie Wood — making his one hundredth appearance for his country since 1966 — who skipped his rink to a 22-14 win over Jim Baker, a former world indoor singles champion, while Alex Marshall, George Adrain, Graeme Archer and John Aitken added further victories.

Sammy Allen, who, like Wood, is almost 60, replied for Ireland with a consolation win over Richard Corsie.

Tony Allcock, Danny Denison, Andy Thomson and David Holt returned winning cards for England, but John Leeman lost by one shot to David Le Marquand, and David Cutler's four lost their first game in 15 to Lee Nixon's Channel Islands team.

Obituaries, page 23

### SAILING

#### Robinson keeps eye on leaders

PETER SORENSEN is leading the Bausch & Lomb 18ft Skiff international championship in *Allegro Workstations*, after two second places in the sixth and seventh races of the ten-race series, which concludes at Fowey today (Edward Gorman writes).

Sorensen, 56, from Sydney, world champion in the class three times, is a half a point ahead of fellow Australian Stephen Quigley, in *Richard Ellis*, with Ian Southworth, of Britain, sailing with Simon Neam and Jarrod Simpson, in third place in *Burge*.

Tim Robinson, the Briton who is sailing *Rockport* with a hired crew of Dave Witt, from Australia, and Ed Smyth, of New Zealand, was in fifth place but still in contention after his third win of the series in the second race yesterday.

It has been a difficult week for Robinson, whose boat has looked quickest in the 19-strong fleet and has led most races from the start. After winning the first two races, he was disqualified from the third — which he finished in second place — for being over the startline early. In race four his boat almost sank and he struggled in eleventh.

"It's been one of the most disastrous regattas I've had," Robinson said. "Fortunately we are still in with a chance and we'll be going all out to catch the Australians."

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مكتبة ابن الأثير



هكذا من الأهل

Sampras raises his game again

Henman bows to authority of true champion

ALL the tennis players who get to the semi-final of Wimbledon are frightfully good at forehands and backhands, that goes without saying. And this being a men's semi-final, it also goes without saying that both men are frightfully good at serving. What actually decides the result of matches at this level are those little other things that the best players bring to the high table of their sport.

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

deference to the will of the champion.

To play this intense and daunting theatre, you need the abilities to fit it. The Centre Court has a knack of bringing out these additional qualities in a player. If you want to play tennis well, you soon learn that mere tennis is never enough. This is a rule that counts double on Centre Court.

Sampras brings to any big match his gift of authority. A great champion expects a toll of deference from those around him. It is not a matter of boasting and swaggering about: these things do not represent true authority. Any one who has watched the Williams sisters play here in the past fortnight knows that.

But Sampras carries with him the real authority of a real champion. And people really do defer to it. They get deference from umpires and linesmen, for in all sports with an element of subjective judgment, the champion gets the benefit when there is a hint of doubt. That is true in dressage, just as it is in skating, in cricket, in tennis, in gymnastics.

But in tennis, the greatest advantage of the gift of authority is that you can make your opponent's will defer to it. A champion compels unwilling but unthinking obedience from many an opponent: a

'In this passage each player was able to reach higher and higher levels of excellence'

classroom. He stopped the nonsense in its tracks. He pushed Henman to break point, and Henman deferentially double-faulted at the crucial moment.

It was the perfect vignette of the authority of a champion: the deference of lower-ranked player. Henman was overwhelmed, didn't win another game that set, was broken again. The Centre Court crowd, hitherto in a cheery Last-Night-of-the-Proms sort of mood, fell uncomfortably silent. They, too, felt the wrath of the headmaster.

And now to the extra bit that Henman brings to the table. This is his ability to raise his game. He has been raising it match by match throughout the tournament. Henman al-

ways manages to raise his game to its highest on Centre Court. And he has never raised it higher than he did yesterday. He played as if he were the best player in the world.

In the second set, he cocked a snook at the authority of Sampras, raised his game and took the headmaster apart. It was like the film, *If*, in which the schoolboy rebels turn on the school with blazing machine-guns, mowing down the prefects and dropping the headmaster with a bullet to the head.

Henman, in the second set, was a man transformed. It had looked in the first set as if it was all going to be a very sad spectacle. Henman forced to die the death of the thousand serves before us. But Henman was majestic, breaking Sampras, then breaking him again.

Both men had brought to the table their finest skills, and in the third set, the authority of Sampras went head to head with the game-raising ability of Henman. There was a prolonged passage in which both players reached the furthest edge of their ability. This is something seen many times from Sampras but this was the best yet from Henman.

It was a passage in which, as each player reached ever-higher levels of excellence, so his opponent did the same. You don't often see this anywhere, even at Wimbledon. I'll raise you again. Greater pressure, and ever greater pressure. Who would be the man to blink?

It was Henman. He played like the best player in the world; but Sampras was the best player in the world. And after this prolonged passage of sumptuous tennis, it was authority that had the edge. Sampras is not the most demonstrative of men; even after winning a great match he seldom puts his emotions on show.

And he never does so after winning a mere set. But after taking that third set, he was leaping about and punching the air as if he had just won the World Cup. There was a way to go yet, and it was all going to be desperately hard work. But with the conversion of that break point to win the set, he had that precious authority re-established. He was never going to lose from there.

Both men emerge with their credit raised still higher, a difficult thing for both players; almost impossible for Sampras, one would have thought. For Henman, this was the bravest of brave defeats. It was an epic performance, a heroic performance, a losing performance. We Brits seem to have had a bellyful of brave defeats of late. But, well, they beat they hell out of cowardly ones.

Alix Ramsay watches the Croatian take a typically difficult route to the final of the men's singles

DEPENDING on what happens over the next couple of days, it may be as well to avoid Croatia for the foreseeable future. Should Goran Ivanisevic win the Wimbledon final and Croatia win the World Cup the whole place will, according to the tall man from Split, be drunk for a year.

It is a big "it", however. Yesterday Ivanisevic came through an epic semi-final with Richard Krajicek, winning 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-7, 15-13, and never swore once, at least not in English. For once, when it mattered, the man who is sick to death of people calling him the best player never to have won a grand-slam event, kept his mind and his emotions under control and claimed his prize — a place in the final against Pete Sampras tomorrow.

Ivanisevic is not a run-of-the-mill sort of player. Compared to Sampras, who tries ruthlessly to mow down the cannon-fodder in front of him, he needs a few moments of madness to make it all seem worthwhile. Why win a match 6-0, 6-0, 6-0 when you can do it blindfold and with one arm tied behind your back?

It is a tactic that has taken Ivanisevic to some amazing



heights and some truly horrible lows, most of them coming over the last few months. But yesterday was different. Wearing a blue bandanna, presumably to keep his brain in place, he was cool, calm and nerveless.

There is little to separate Krajicek and Ivanisevic. They are both tall — 6ft 5in and 6ft 4in respectively — and they both treat the service as a lethal weapon. Such niceties as returns and volleys are secondary to the killer blow, although both men have their moments, should a rally break out.

For the first two sets there was no more than a point in it and those were going to Ivanisevic. A volley error from Krajicek and a backhand from Ivanisevic was enough to wrap up the first set, a double fault and a big return the second.

Even when Krajicek won the third set there was no panic. Ivanisevic calmly broke in the opening game of fourth and was back on course. Within no time he held two match points. Goran was going to the final and he let fly with an ace. Krajicek headed for the net to shake hands only to turn around and go back when the umpire called a let. The new, cool Ivanisevic smiled at the heavens and got back to work, dropped his service and head-



Ivanisevic lets his hair down after beating Krajicek in a dramatic five-set semi-final on Centre Court yesterday

ed for the torture of the fifth set. Many years ago Boris Becker, who was providing match commentary for the BBC yesterday, said that the fifth set has nothing to do with tennis and everything to do with the heart and mind.

That does not bode well where Ivanisevic is concerned but for the last couple of weeks he has been a reformed character. "I only had one five-second blackout this week, against Vasek on court two, and that's all the blackouts I've had," Ivanisevic said. "I am really keeping my mind well and believing I can do it this year."

He was the only person on Centre Court who thought so

as Krajicek broke for a 3-2 lead at the start of the fifth set. Even so, Ivanisevic broke back and then both men let rip with their service. Krajicek notched up 23 aces in that final set — and 42 in all — but still Ivanisevic kept cool.

"I never saw someone serve like that in my life," he said. "It was just 'boom' and I couldn't even react. I just said to myself, 'Keep your serve and he has to miss a couple of first serves.' And that happened at 14-13." It seemed like a perfect game-plan to him.

Sure enough Krajicek, whose injury-prone knees have been the cause of some concern throughout these championships, slowed down just a fraction as he served to

stay in the match. A little more than 1½ hours after his first match points, Ivanisevic was staring at two more and, as Krajicek put a backhand into the net, the new Ivanisevic yelled and sank to his knees.

Now there is tomorrow to look forward to. "I know how to play in the finals, I've been there," he said. "But I know that I must not let my mind go away because, if it flies away for just one second, then it's very tough."

In the meantime, there is the small matter of Croatia against Germany tonight and then he will allow the nerves to jangle freely. "I will sit in front of TV and I will be very nervous," he said. Croatia has been warned.



Krajicek served 42 aces but lost in five sets

Gimelstob spells double trouble

IT HAS BEEN a strange Wimbledon for Leander Paes, of India. He lost in the first round of the men's singles, but was expected to remain in both doubles events a lot longer: perhaps until the final day.

His partnership with his countryman, Mahesh Bhupathi, is the world's third best, according to the rankings, and the Wimbledon seeding committee agreed this year. Unfortunately, the Indian pair ran into Justin Gimelstob and Brian MacPhee in good form in only the second round.

No matter. In mixed doubles, he was top seed in company with Larisa Neiland, of Latvia, and things were going much better there — until yesterday, that is. Paes came up against Gimelstob again, and he must be sick of the sight of the American, as Gimelstob and Venus Williams took the match 6-3, 6-4.

The public cannot get enough of Williams, though. She can appear aloof and distant on court, and in press conferences, but seems to enjoy her mixed doubles, as do the Wimbledon crowds. They will have even more to enjoy if any other unseeded pair, Max Mirnyi of Bulgaria and Serena Williams, Venus's sister, maintain their progress in the other half of the draw. They took the first set against Stolte and Kuncz.

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

Bhupathi and Mirjana Lucic await the unseeded American pair in the semi-finals, after a win in three sets over Wayne Arthurs and Kerry-Anne Guse, and Bhupathi will hope for revenge on his own behalf as well as that of his long-time men's partner.

Players slow to pass Rusedski's mark

PERHAPS the most remarkable statistic at Wimbledon this year involves Greg Rusedski, whose brief campaign was hampered by the ankle injury that he picked up at Queen's Club. In spite of this, the British No 1 is credited with the fastest service of these championships.

On the first Tuesday, Rusedski hit a service timed at 134mph in his first-round match against Mark Draper, an Australian. Even though he retired the day after without completing the match, his mark still remains the one to beat.

Goran Ivanisevic struck the most aces, 133, in his first five matches, followed by Richard Krajicek (94), Pete Sampras Krajicek (94), Pete Sampras (89) and Tim Henman (54). All four reached the men's semi-finals but none has come close

to matching Rusedski's power. Virginia Wade played in 26 consecutive championships from 1962 to 1987. Martina Hingis has played at Wimbledon four times already, even though she is only 17. Hingis, however, beaten by Jana Novotna in the semi-finals, does not believe she will challenge Wade's record in the year 2020.

Asked where she would be in five years time, Hingis replied: "Maybe I will be a mother, but perhaps not. I want to enjoy my life first. But I can't see myself still on the court." "Plenty of players at 16 or 17 say 'in ten years' time I won't be around, for sure' and you still see them running around the court. But 2020? No, I don't think so."

side wall and the reactions from a thousand throats to the Henman-Sampras epic headed squarely in the direction of the doubles contest. A surprise in the women's doubles was the defeat of the No 3 seeds, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Helena Sukova, by the No 7s, Lisa Raymond, and Rennae Stubbs, who recovered from a set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-1. Raymond and Stubbs take the top seeds, Hingis and Novotna, in the semi-finals.

The top seeds in the men's doubles, Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, defeated the No 12 seeds, Wayne Black and Sebastian Larreau, in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5, but the reigning champions, Woodbridge and Woodford, dropped a set against Pat Rafter and Jonas Bjorkman.

On the subject of reigning champions, Natascha Zvereva, whose sunglasses have been a feature of her appearances this year, also left No 2 Court with a cap pulled down over her eyes, though there was little sun in evidence. Zvereva is now bereft of her fellow winner of last year, Giti Fernandez, who retired at the end of 1997, but is now seeded second with Lindsay Davenport. Yesterday they progressed in straight sets against Guse, and Catherine Barclay, the No 14 seeds.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Table listing tennis results for Men's singles, Men's over-35 doubles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Mixed doubles, Men's over-45 doubles, Women's over-35 doubles, Boys' singles, and Quarter-finals.

Advertisement for Nokia 5110 mobile phone, featuring 'Latest Nokia 5110 as advertised on TV, now only £9.99', 'Not 20 but 100 Minutes Free', and 'FREE portable hands-free car kit (saving £45.00)'. Includes an image of the phone and the Vodafone logo.

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GOLF: EUROPE'S NO 1 LOSES THREE-STROKE LEAD IN IRISH OPEN

Montgomerie stumbles in more senses than one

IT IS hard to dislodge Colin Montgomerie when he is playing well and talking confidently...

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT AT DRUID'S GLEN

The untimely injury has come at the start of the three weeks he has referred to as the heart of his season...

who has come to these shores via the Nike and other mini-tours in the US...

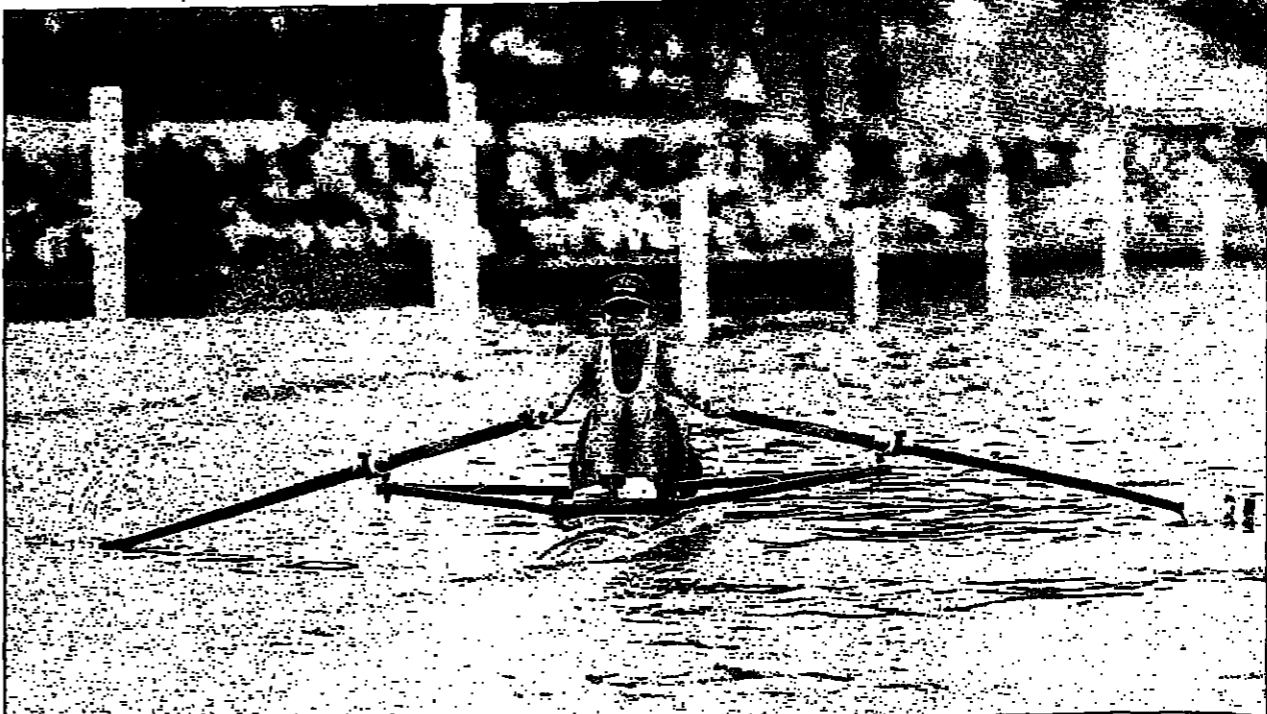
Davies gets golden chance

Laura Davies will rarely have a better chance of winning the US Women's Open championship...

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN KOHLER, WISCONSIN

Open champion on Sunday full of holes by taking too many shots to find the hole...

McHenry, 34, and Hainline, a 28-year-old American who has come to these shores via the Nike and other mini-tours...



Douglas, the Australian rower, on her way to an unexpected triumph in the women's single sculls yesterday

Beaten Batten blames station

GUIN BATTEN, the leading British woman sculler and a selected entry, made an untimely exit at the hands of Gina Douglas, of Australia...

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

winner in his Diamond sculls heat against Tristan Pascall, of Australia. The American is going better than he was in Belgium two weeks ago...

The British pair, Joseph Kelly and Giles Monnickendam, put out the Americans from Penn Athletic after the tightest of contests in the double sculls...

FIXTURES

Today CRICKET Third Cornhill Test match 11.0, third day of five, 80 overs minimum...

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS LUCERNE, Switzerland: International meeting: Men: 100m: 1. B Lewis (US) 10.55...

SPORT IN BRIEF

Smith leads challenge

TRIATHLON: Spencer Smith spearheads a strong Great Britain team when he defends his Olympic distance title at the European championships in Velden, Austria, today...

Brite prospects

CYCLING: Team Brite, Britain's leading squad of the year, have nine riders competing in the 130-mile national road race championship on undulating roads near Solihull tomorrow...

Davidson joins Castres

RUGBY UNION: Jeremy Davidson, the British Isles lock, has become the second player to depart the Allied Dunbar Premiership for France...

Doohan's Donington pole

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan underlined his determination to take a fourth consecutive victory in the British 500cc Grand Prix at Donington Park on Sunday by powering his Repsol Honda to provisional pole for the 30-lap race yesterday...

Garrido lies in wait

GOLF: Antonio Garrido, of Spain, the defending champion, shot a five-under-par second round of 66 in the Lawrence Batley seniors tournament at Huddersfield Golf Course yesterday to lie two shots behind the leaders going into the final round...

Tigers re-sign McCord

BASKETBALL: Thames Valley Tigers have re-signed John McCord, the high-scoring forward and most valuable player in the National Cup, for next season...



Coven, the world champion, rows to a comfortable victory in the Diamond sculls

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM HENLEY

Table listing various rowing events and winners from the Henley 98 regatta, including Prince Philip Cup, Thames Cup, Princess Elizabeth Cup, etc.

Advertisement for Titleist golf balls, featuring the slogan 'THE BALL THAT COUNTS THE MOST.' and a large image of a Titleist golf ball.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Face it, Hoo you' and 'Tale of the and its re'.

WORLD CUP 98

# Face the facts, Hoddle — you blew it

The World Cup is clearly structured so that, providing teams perform as they should, you don't get two Goliaths pounding each other in the last 16. Look at the other fixtures in that section and none bear any resemblance to a showdown, with one. Croatia v Romania, looking and proving to be a right drab old dog. Something somewhere had clearly gone wrong.

So the question is, of course, what were we doing playing Argentina in the first place? We were playing Argentina because we lost to a weak Romania. We lost to a weak Romania because the correct team and game plan were still not apparent to the management. It was a lousy, lazy, unfocused performance that proved to be our undoing.

## DANNY BAKER



not the same as bringing on Gascoigne, and to claim that the argument no longer matters, or is passé, or is simply irrelevant, smacks to me of pure, stiff-necked insecurity.

Kebabs be damned, even if you didn't miss him, it was clear Alan Shearer did and, if nothing else, we know Gazza can hack a big-time penalty shoot-out. Ultimately, Paul Scholes was not a replacement.

### 'We went as far as Paraguay and a little farther than Iran'

ment. His headlines all came against the poorer opposition. He was not up to it. Most telling of all was that, once again, it was left to the foreign TV pundits even to raise the question of Paul Gascoigne, just one month ago the biggest story in British football.

This was not a good World Cup for England. The fantastic spectacle all around us

seems to have blinded many and caused us to become intoxicated by our mere presence. The fact is we blew it.

Played four, lost two. We went as far as Paraguay and Norway, a little farther than Iran. The quality of our eventual conquerors and drama of departure is of no comfort — we arrived on the big stage too soon because of our own underachieving.

Yet England can be a terrific team, possibly one of the best. I just don't feel we're a particularly happy or unified squad, no matter how many under-manners TV stringers say "relaxed" and "confident" against a backdrop of the team in training. Glenn's blend of seriousness and quacky self-help ideology — as cringingly evidenced in the new, much available and Byronesque Tony Adams — quite simply makes other players privately feel thick and silly. Dourness masquerading as depth.

There were very few images of players laughing and joking this time around, but much chat against soft lighting about maturity and responsibility and being seen to get the job done. Speaking to supporters here and in France they, too, felt a distance between the squad and fans during the campaign. They perceived a crossed, closed New England, measured and marketed, no longer recognisable as "the Lads", but closer to the homogenised, brand ideal of Lancaster Gate.

Only Owen's unshackled exuberance blew through this fuzzy fortnight as steam through an escape valve. That the United States — who, in some pre-tournament interviews, our mumbled even Hoddle's jumbo — are presently searching for a new leader and guru is something that our minister manager should find very interesting indeed.



Everyone appreciated the sublime talent of Owen except Hoddle — until it was too late

## Dropped but not forgotten

When was it decided that the bounce-up was to be abolished? Today, whenever play is required to be halted for an injury, it is usually done by one side putting the ball into touch in the safe knowledge that the opposition will give it back at the restart. Even when the referee does need to drop the ball, one player springing backs away.

Well, when was this all agreed upon? A bounce-up, or drop-ball, used to be one of the keenest fought and breathlessly exciting parts of the entire game. Nobody who has ever been mixed up in one of these peculiar manic duels will ever forget the sheer insane rush they bring.

I think it had to bounce just once before you and your opposite number could begin thrashing away, and those seconds before the thing was thrown at your boots were completely heart stopping. Quite often, the referee would be dissatisfied with some technicality and have the showdown performed two or three times. Even the most hardy

shin-pads would be reduced to rags after that lot. On top of this the ball would never seem to go anywhere but remain trapped in the maelstrom of the four shovelling feet would create. Inevitably, a third party would have to nip in and take the ball out of the loop and quite often it would require several hard slaps around the face before the drop-ball combatants could be brought to their senses.

Of course it is merely a matter of time before the sickening gentlemen's agreement that requires the return of the ball to who had it last blows up in one side's face. Sooner or later, perhaps in the fading seconds of the World Cup Final, some player is going to think "Sod it" and simply throw the ball straight to his centre forward, who is clean through on goal.

They will score and it will be legal. People will shout shame as they lift the trophy, but not me. When players are really injured, other players know it and stop playing. At the moment they are required by moral blackmail to hammer it into the stands whenever a full back sneezes.

The sooner some brave lad gives two fingers to this absurd modern affectation, the quicker we shall see the return of the bounce-up and children will at last have the true answer to just why it was soccer, of all sports, that swept the world.

THERE has been much revulsion in the media at the pictures showing the Argentina squad driving their team bus alongside the defeated England players and rubbing salt in our wounds by making faces and triumphal gestures — everything, it can be said, short of actually mooning at Glenn Hoddle. It was most certainly childish and unprofessional, but I have yet to meet someone who did not rather admire it.

# Led a merry dance after quick step over to Sky

One of the most worrying aspects over the past few tremendous weeks has been how on earth Sky Sports were coping with the humiliation of trying to pad out their three channels without any of the big events that are presently gripping the globe. I have, of course, been sorely tempted to switch across during England or Brazil fixtures to find out just what sort of old rot they are pretending might possibly constitute legitimate competition, but I simply could not descend to indulging such a ghoulish thrill.

This noble emotion stems, I believe, from the time that I bought a ticket to see the legendary, American West Coast band The Byrds in the mid-Eighties, when they boasted but one original member. I found then that the thrill of handing the raspberry to an outfit on its uppers is of limited duration and, after a while, one feels degraded at simply being part of the mob. Leaving at least half the rotten fruit in the carrier bag in which I'd brought it, I walked home wondering what kind of a beast I'd become.

During the superb Nigeria v Denmark game, however, the chastened imp in me finally got the whip hand and I hesitantly flipped across to see what Sky Sports I had rustled up by way of an alternative feast. What greeted me made even the most hideous, asset-stripped rendition of *Mr Tambourine Man* seem like the Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll. It was the finals of the world jiving championships.

While Messrs Laudrup and West locked horns live from Paris, I was suddenly hopelessly lost within the stupendous spectacle of a lacquered lady in a turquoise, tassled dress, shaking a non-stop shoe to the thin backbeat of a Casio-generated *My Blue Heaven*. In close attention, a pipe-cleaner of a man dressed in the tell-

tale attire that marks one as either a waiter or wrestling referee was clearly not letting his left hip know what his right hip was up to.

Man At Mike: "This is why they're current champions!"

Woman At Mike: "Both showing first-class floor craft..."

Man At Mike: "Masterly enough to avoid collisions with other couples..."

Now, admittedly, I know little of the strictures and skills involved in professional sport jiving, but surely even rank beginners know enough not to pivot away and assault the competition. Then, in came my wife.

"What are you watching?"

"The world jiving championships on Sky Sports 1."

"Are you making me watch my film upstairs for this?"

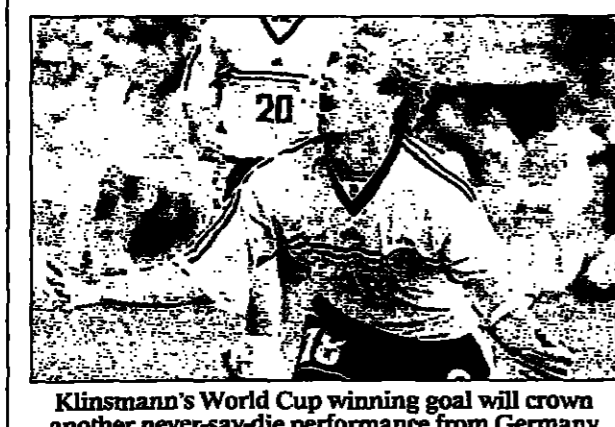
"I need to know who wins..."

"What about the World Cup?"

"It's half-time." (It wasn't)

Eventually, the judges announced that the winners, and still pro-jiving champions of the world, were Skufka and Venturini — the same Skufka and Venturini I had been goggling at and rooting for since I first channel-surfed.

Exhausted and a little tearful, I switched back. I had missed two Danish goals, but so what? They would be repeated over and over before this tournament is through and beyond. Whereas, I should imagine, opportunities to observe Skufka and Venturini's world-beating sport jive on prime-time TV will be as scarce as ads featuring David Beckham have suddenly become.



Klinsmann's World Cup winning goal will crown another never-say-die performance from Germany

## They're dead certs

DURING the group matches, I was given to saying that, until Germany were actually out of this competition, I won't believe they're not going to win it again. Now I don't think even reverse scorelines at final whistles will be enough. I'm sorry to say this, but I think we may have to kill them with stakes through the heart and silver bullets. We must then put the bodies in sacks and bury them deep beneath the polar ice. Finally, detonate a nuclear device making the region a thousand-year mass of fire and radiation. Even then they will somehow revive like Rasputin and, crawling on their broken and bloody knees and elbows, make it back to the stadium exactly four seconds from the end of the world. Jürgen Klinsmann will push the ball into the net with the very pole sticking out of his chest. The goal will be given.

# Tale of the lost Mexico anthem and its return to the airwaves

Before the curtain fell on England's hopes for France 98, you may have noticed that "Football's Coming Home" had seemingly been replaced among the supporters by the descending refrain, "We're on the ball". We're on the ball, we're on the ball, a delightful, quaint and infectious chant. I must now reveal both my own hand in unearthing this surprising terrace hit as well as its own bitter-sweet story.

On *The Ball* was recorded by a group of session men called *The Supporters* for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. They hoped to outshine the official anthem, *Back Home*, much in the same way as *Three Lions* pulled the carpet from under *Top Of The World* this summer. However, *The Ball* sold miserably with some estimates putting the figure as low as nine.

Now today, of course, such sales are viewed as robust and could easily push the disc to the top of the charts but, back then, *On The Ball* was considered a flop and quickly deleted.

We come now to May of this year and the weekly planning meeting for Chris Evans's Channel 4 show *TFI Friday*, a programme I have been known to hoodwink into parting with cash for barely rewritten music-hall jinks.

Among the selections of carnival people, combusting dolls and naked 18-year-olds all vying for space on the show is presented a corny old RCA Victor 45rpm that might have some kitsch value. Its words, set to a jaunty "Obla-Di Obla-Da" type bass line, run

thus: "Nobby to Bobby, Bobby to Martin, Martin to Jackie, Jackie to Fran, Franny to Alan, Alan to Geoffrey, Geoffrey to Ossie and Wham! We're On The Ball! We're On The Ball!"

On first hearing, it was plain that this was no mere slice of kitsch. This was a tremendous, feelgood winner. Simple and singalong, it came totally free of any of the "instant classic" portentousness that clutters the modern football song market.

On the show it was an immediate hit, literally sending people through the foyer whistling it, and once Chris took it up on his radio show the search was on to unearth

just who *The Supporters* might be. I was convinced that they were Chas Hodges and Dave Peacock, Chas & Dave, who would probably have been forced by peer pressure to issue this rinky-dink knock-off in anonymity.

However, after initial research they soon dropped out of the frame. The record company had lost track of both the master tapes and recording data, while on the label the writing credits were baldly given as (Spiro). For almost a month the dusty old gem refused to yield up its secret.

Then, two weeks ago, a phone call came into the Ginger Productions offices

from a woman who said that she had been alerted that a fresh wave of interest had been shown in her father's 28-year old novelty song. The woman had, until the previous evening, been entirely unaware that much of the nation had been belting out the old man's melody complete with liberties being taken to update the lyrics and even an Iran squad version prepared.

She said a workmate had heard Chris's appeal and connected the name Spiro with her maiden name. *The Supporters*, she said, were her dad and a few friends and, yes, the figure of nine copies sold sounded about right.

## Musical moments we must treasure

After my confession that I find it impossible to hear certain players' names spoken in commentary without parroting back an involuntary response — Doonger "Hoonga-doonger", Parker "yes m'lady" etc — I receive a superb postcard from Mark in Bridgwater thanking me for making him feel less alone. Rather wonderfully he cannot let mention of Zidane's name go by without adding "...you're rocking the boat". This is brilliant and now I'm stuck with it also.

Rather more resistible but more a cause for celebration

is Steve from Hillingdon, who says his grandmother was a big fan of an old music hall tune called *Valencia*. Consequently, he cannot hear *Valencia* mentioned without breaking into "...put your head between your legs and whistle up your Barcelona..." I promise you. I am a student of Benchley, Perelman, Beachcomber, Thurber and Wodehouse. Yet, if there is a more absurd and funnier phrase than "whistle up your Barcelona" in the English language, I certainly haven't come across it. Your day should be brighter now.

Now, we broached the big one. Would he be prepared to reform the group, come on *TFI Friday* and take the roof off the dump with a live rendition complete with the Sheffield Wednesday Band and massed superstar chorus, closing our series on the highest-possible note?

"I'm sorry," she answered. "Dad died just before Christmas last year..."

And so, when the outnumbered England fans noisily struck up their new anthem in the brighter moments of the match last Tuesday, though they might have known it was a full seven World Cups out of time, they were surely unaware that, for its creator, they embraced it just one World Cup too late.

□ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.

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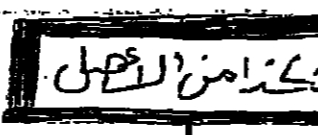
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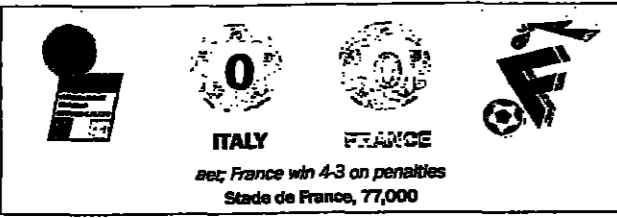
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WORLD CUP '98

# Italy curse jinx of the penalty



FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ALL WEEK, they had been desperately trying to persuade each other that they could win. "Victory is within us," the signs that lined the byways to the Stade de France read reassuringly. "Don't panic," the headlines said above pictures of the prolific Italian forward, Christian Vieri. "You can do it," the newspapers urged when France woke up yesterday morning.

For most of this scrappy, untidy match here, their team and most particularly their forwards, did not seem at all convinced. But in the end, courtesy of the Italian penalty curse that makes England's look like a passing misfortune and has now ended their involvement in the past three World Cups, they scraped through.

The children will play football with added gusto on the lawns in front of Les Invalides now and the revellers will sing and dance later into the night in the Latin Quarter. The French dream of winning this World Cup on home soil is still alive: only Germany or Croatia stand between them and a place in the final on July 12.

It would have been rank injustice had they lost to this average Italian side that was so desperately limited in its ambition that it barely created a chance. But for all their enthusiastic approach play and the guile of the returning Zinedine Zidane, France were emasculated once more by the lack of striking potency.

Fly Italy, though, because they experienced the pain last night that England felt last

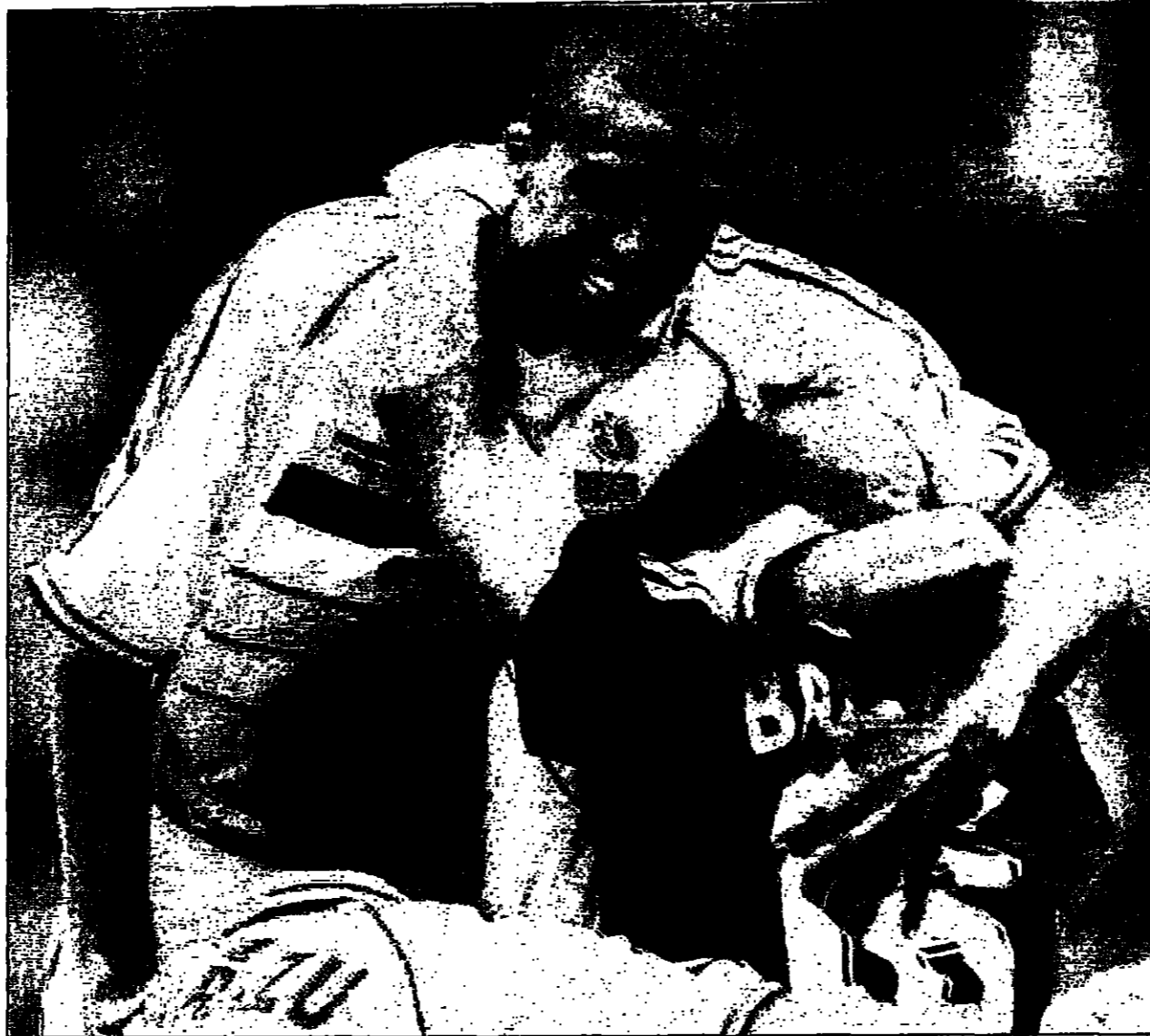
Tuesday in St-Etienne. Shoot-outs have blighted their efforts in recent years. In 1990, on home soil, they lost to Argentina in a shoot-out at the semi-final stage. Four years later, Roberto Baggio blasted his kick high over the bar in Pasadena to hand the trophy to Brazil.

Baggio showed great courage in the Stade de France yesterday, stepping up to take Italy's first penalty and sending Barthez the wrong way. If he felt a sense of catharsis, he did not show it like Stuart Pearce had done. He merely put one finger to his lips and walked calmly back to the centre circle and clasped his hands in prayer.

It was all no avail, though. Demetrio Albertini missed Italy's next kick to cancel out Pagliuca's earlier save from Bixente Lizarazu and after France scored from the remainder of their penalties, it all came down to Di Biagio's fifth kick. The AS Roma midfielder player took just two steps in his run-up but scooped his shot against the top of the crossbar.

He fell backwards to the floor as his team-mates rushed to console him. By the time he was led off, the entire French team and their manager, Aimé Jacquet, had linked arms in the centre circle and was dancing a jig of joy. In the stands, Michel Platini, was pumping his fists in the air, forgetting his new-found venerability.

"We must be cursed," Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, said afterwards. "We



Trezeguet, embraced by the goalkeeper, Barthez, leads the celebrations after France's knife-edge victory

gave every drop of sweat and I cannot criticise my players. We played comfortably and we were not threatened by their forwards."

If Italy deserved sympathy, though, France deserved their good fortune. They had dominated the game from the outset. Zidane, playing in what he said was the most important match of his career on his return from suspension, volleyed a half-chance high over the crossbar after Italy had failed to clear a corner from Petit in the second minute.

Two minutes later, Zidane, one of 15 players in the starting line-ups who pursue their careers in Italy's Serie A, went closer, taking down a clever free kick from Djorkaeff that dropped over his shoulder and forcing a fine finger-tip save from Pagliuca.

A minute after that, France

went close again. Harassed by Guivarc'h and Desailly, the Italian defence was left in disarray by a Zidane corner from the right. It fell to Petit who hooked it goalwards with his left foot but Pagliuca was equal to the challenge again, flinging himself backwards to push the shot wide.

The first time Italy broke free from their shackles, though, they should have gone ahead. Del Piero wriggled free of Lizarazu on the right-hand side and chipped to the back post where Vieri, who will have to wait now to see whether his five goals will win him the Golden Boot, rose above Desailly. In the mood he is in, he seemed certain to score but he directed his header wide with Barthez at his mercy.

The second half was a desert of creativity, made uplifting only by the defensive excellence of Desailly, Blanc and Thuram for France and Cannavaro, playing with a face mask after an elbow from Guivarc'h, Costacurta and Maldini for Italy. With almost dismissive ease, they snuffed out the few insignificant attacks their opponents made.

Only when Roberto Baggio replaced Del Piero with 20 minutes to go did Italy begin to offer a threat. At last, they gave France an anxious moment or two, first when Di Biagio flicked Roberto Baggio's free kick just wide and then when Baggio's cross was cleared to Fessotto whose shot was smothered by Barthez.

Even when the game

slipped into extra time and held out the incentive of the Golden Goal, France could scarcely muster a chance. It was Roberto Baggio once more, in fact, who nearly made them pay with a sublime volley on the run that whistled just wide of Barthez's right-hand post. Two minutes from the end, Pagliuca denied Djorkaeff who had been freed by Henry. After that, it was down to the curse.

ITALY (4-4-2): G Pagliuca (Internazionale) — F Cannavaro (AC Parma), G Bergami (Internazionale), A Costacurta (AC Milan), P Marchi (AC Milan) — F Moretti (Internazionale), G Piovato (Lazio), A Gil Lino, Juventus, S. Biondi, D. Baggio (AC Parma), G. Di Biagio, A. Costacurta, S. L. Di Biagio (AS Roma) — A. Del Piero (Lazio), S. Biondi, R. Baggio, Bologna, 67, C. Vieri (Lazio), M. V. Barthez (AS Monaco)

FRANCE (4-3-3): V. Barthez (AS Monaco) — L. Thuram (Parma), L. Blanc (Internazionale), M. Desailly (Chelsea), E. Lizarazu (Bayern Munich) — G. Trezeguet (Paris St Germain), Z. Zidane (Juventus) — S. Biondi (Lazio), D. Djorkaeff (Lazio), D. Deschamps (Juventus), E. Petit (Arsenal)

Referee: H. Dallas (Scotland)

# Spot prize ends a long wait for revenge

Brian Glanville sees one coach celebrate while his rival stays on the defensive

By beating Italy here at the St Denis Stadium, France had some sort of revenge for going out to the Azzurri in the same round and in the same city in the World Cup of 60 years ago. Even if they care through only on penalties and, you might say, by the width of a crossbar, Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, who had been exposed to a good deal of scepticism before the tournament, was "very happy with this qualification".

France, he said, had beaten a powerful team. He had no regrets about bringing in his two young substitutes, Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet, late in the game. He needed to pep up his attack and these were two brilliant young players with fine futures ahead of them. True, their insertion had somewhat disturbed the tactical balance of the team, but he still had no second thoughts.

It was this tactical disturbance, he said, that probably allowed Italy to come into the game in the later stages, although he felt overall that France had had a good deal the better of exchanges.

He and his team had worked hard on countering the Italian strengths. Indeed, Italian journalists were muttering that one of the reasons that the unfortunate Luigi Di Biagio, who missed that last and vital penalty, was so much less effective and creative than in previous games was precisely because he had against him such a determined and resilient opponent, as Didier Deschamps.

"We expected them to come out and play the kind of match they did," Jacquet said. "We were always training hard to work out ways of counter them. That's why neither we nor the Italians often found ourselves in trouble." As for the next game, whether it be against Germany or Croatia, Jacquet

says he is happy to savour the moment. There is, he said, and has been all along, a very good spirit in his squad, and he is proud to have got the team as far as the semi-finals. Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, was like his team, sturdily defensive. "It's the third time Italy have gone out of a World Cup on penalties," he said. "It's a sort of lottery. But I'm happy with my team. They gave everything to the last drop of sweat. It's just a pity. No, we didn't make any mistakes. After all, we finished the game at 0-0. From my point of view, we committed no errors."

Italian journalists were somewhat less euphoric. One suggested that his team had been on the defensive for 70 per cent of the time. "What do you mean by attack?" Maldini retorted. "We played with two attackers, sometimes three. We have to deal with the strategy of the team we play against. Defensive? Absolutely not."

It was strange to hear Maldini say that his goalkeeper had not had to make a single when, in fact, he had saved dramatically from Petit at the start and from Djorkaeff in extra time.

Maldini went on to deny there was anything wrong with his sustained use of the attack of Alessandro del Piero, who, apart from giving one good square pass to Christian Vieri for Italy's one solitary dangerous shot, did so little of consequence. Roberto Baggio, when he came on, looked so much sharper.

Someone told Roberto Baggio, who missed that crucial penalty in the 1994 World Cup final penalty shoot-out "This time, you scored, and Albertini missed." "That didn't really change the situation," Baggio said. "The fact remains that we went out on penalties. This is difficult to digest."

# Owen the bonus as England lose lottery but refuse to roll over

MARCEL DESAILLY and I have already been glancing at the fixture list for next season to check when Chelsea play Liverpool. It is an afternoon when we will have the small task of stopping Michael Owen.

Marcel has yet to play against the teenage sensation, but he will not need me to warn him about Owen's strengths now after that goal. There are some fearsome strikers in this World Cup, but I do not believe any will be capable of eclipsing his wondrous strike against Argentina. It was a goal that deserved to win any match and, as an adopted Englishman, I was proud to see it.

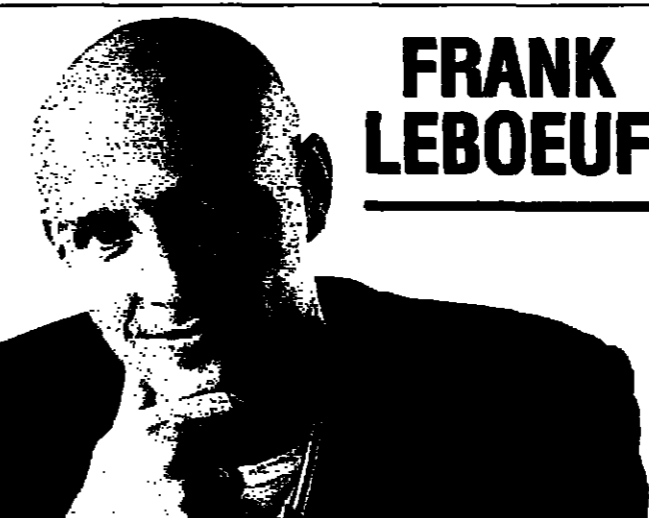
Marcel Hoddie's team in the tournament. I watched the game alone in my room in the French camp, but I can tell you that the rest of the squad was gripped by an England team which proved that it was strong enough to rival any side in the world. That was not something I expected to say when the tournament began.

From Sol Campbell and Tony Adams, so strong and brave at the back, to Alan Shearer and Owen up front, it was a magnificent performance and it was such a shame that it had to be decided by the lottery of penalties.

Much has been made of the fact that it was David Batty's first penalty and that the England team had not been practising them. As a penalty-taker myself for Chelsea, I think it is nonsense to say that England should have prepared better for spot-kicks.

The truth is that you cannot practise them properly. Whether you score is not a question of technique but mental strength, and banging a few in on a training ground can never replicate the real match situation.

Certainly, Aimé Jacquet, the coach of the France national team, does not get us to rehearse them because, as he says, nothing can prepare you for the real thing in front of 60,000 supporters and with the eyes of the world on you. My technique is to give myself one penalty at the end of



FRANK LEOBOEUF

training because at least that is bringing a bit of mental pressure to bear, knowing that you have just one chance. Having not missed a penalty for four years, I would like to think it works.

I feel huge sympathy for Batty and Paul Ince and I truly hope that no one in England will hold them responsible for England's defeat. I know that in France, when we went out to Germany in the semi-final of the 1982 World Cup on penalties, there was a lot of criticism heaped on Didier Six, who had the misfortune to raise the decisive spot-kick. It was very, very unfair.

What England fans should do is look for reasons that England did not win before the shoot-out, and I have to say that, among the France squad, there was a widespread feeling that David Beckham's dismissal transformed a match that England had looked very capable of winning.

I understand there has been much criticism of Beckham across the Channel and there is no doubt that the incident betrayed his inexperience. He has come a long way in a very short time and his red card showed that he still needs time to learn how to deal with the grand occasion.

I and many of my colleagues felt, however, that the sending-off was harsh to say the least and certainly far more debatable than the dismissal of Zinedine Zidane, my international team-mate. Diego

Someone looked like he was in the movies when he fell after Beckham's tiny kick and I am certain that his over-reaction contributed heavily to the referee's decision.

It was such a shame because it turned what had been a magnificent match into a cagey game of chess. England, so thrilling going forward in the first half, had to use Shearer and Owen as defenders, a job they did with fantastic selflessness, and no one can be faulted. The England players can now prepare for next season in the Premiership. I might have to give a little thought to how I will be dealing with young Owen.

Guidelines given the elbow? BECKHAM'S dismissal was yet another refereeing controversy from this World Cup and I do not think that the issue will die once the tournament ends. The fact is that Beckham would not have been

dismissed by any of the Premiership referees and I wonder if he would be next season. The new, stricter guidelines to Fifa officials are meant to carry on in domestic leagues, but I have my doubts whether they will be enforced as rigidly in England as in other countries. Premiership referees like to allow more physical contact and I think it will be harder for them to change.

It could add up to confusion. The inconsistency will be worse for the teams playing in Europe, who will have to adjust. I just hope that the players know where they stand.

Personally, I am very firm on my stance on over-physical confrontations. In England there are still too many stray elbows, too many people being hurt in the face. I am all for strict officials, but what we really need is consistent ones.

Farewell to the Blues WE HAVE developed a habit of singing Gloria Gaynor's *I Will Survive* in the France dressing-room and it was booming out in the Stade de France last night. These are unbelievably exciting times for me and my country.

The number of Chelsea players in the tournament has been dropping almost by the day, with Celestine Babayaro (Nigeria), Graeme Le Saux (England), Tore Andre Flo (Norway) and Dan Petrescu (Romania) all departing in recent games. Now Roberto di Matteo must pack his bags and I must carry the Chelsea flag forward. My dream of lifting the trophy continues.

Italy.

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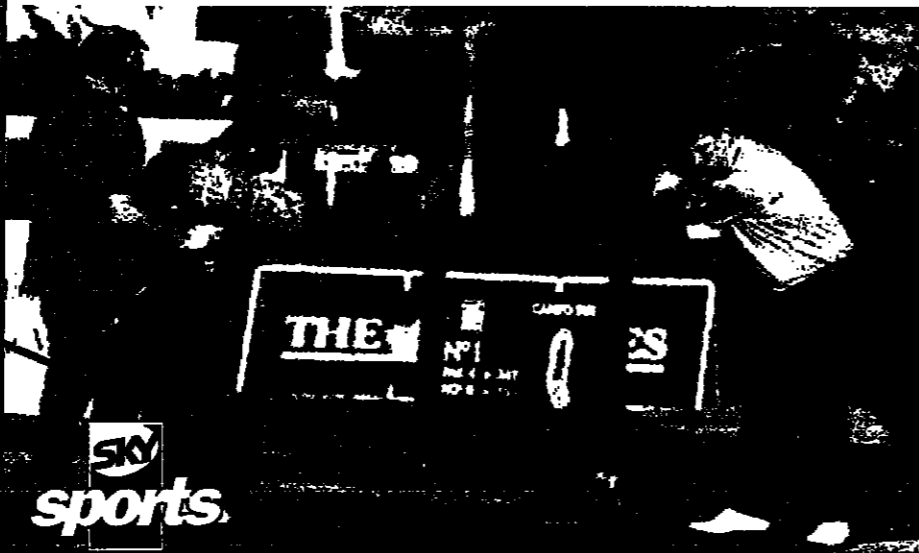
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WORLD CUP 98

# Learning to live with deprivation



The old harbour district of Marseilles looked the perfect place to spend a couple of rest days, but the city was officially full up

Avignon

It suddenly occurred to me on the pressure-cooker on wheels that was the train from Marseilles to Avignon that the World Cup "rest days" are for the benefit of the players. Stupidly, I'd assumed that they were like ceasefires in trench warfare: short periods of grace in which supporters and viewers could race about in trenchcoats with worried expressions, gathering their casualties, before emotional bombardment recommenced.

We English needed a day or two for crutch-practice, certainly. Also for mutual bandaging of torn psyches, and for getting addicted to morphine. Unfortunately, waking up at night waving our arms and shouting "No!" is something that can't be repaired overnight. It's just something we'll have to get used to, over the next two decades or so.

Anyway, all I can say is "Rest days? Pah. Give me footie, and lots of it." Doubtless, carrier colleagues spent their rest days visiting Monet's Garden or something ("Blissful", they will report), whereas I spent the first of mine arriving too early in Marseilles, where (to quote Victoria Wood) the dog had been begging about with the

thermostat. Still, nothing wrong with Marseilles, you might think.

Marseilles is a terrific place — just watch out for pickpockets, all human life. Popeye Doyle, quayside fish markets, organised crime and all that. But Marseilles itself was officially full up, which was why I never tasted its saffron glamour, and instead found myself being driven from the station at hectic speed on a 25-quid taxi ride away from town to a small fenced compound at the airport.

As the automatic gates clanged shut, I looked on the bright side. Maybe Marseilles would be a distraction at a time like this. I had a lot of mourning to do. Besides which, many visitors to London are said to make the mistake on arrival at Heathrow of taking the wrong bus, and then spending a very pleasant holiday in Hounslow.

"It was great," they say afterwards. "We took a fascinating trip to Fulwell Garage. Unfortunately, we only heard about Whitton on our last day, but we'll be back!" So, similarly, a tired and emotional visitor to Marseilles can only take so much. Who needs nightclubs and dazzling harbour boat trips when you can take the courtesy bus to international check-in, *any time you please?*



Truss's Grand Voyage

And it was right, somehow, to be in a hostile desert, God knows where, with the windows sealed shut against the furnace conditions outside, while the World Cup geared up for its last week. It has an alienating rhythm, this tournament. One minute there are 32 teams in it, and the whole world is welcome. But then you look round and there are only eight countries left and the place is awash with the bitter tears of the departed.

The competition shifts a gear; the teams get a rest, disorientated writers hole up in two-star sensory deprivation units. Meanwhile,

everything literally hots up. In fact, as far as my own World Cup is concerned, I'm reminded of the old description of Madrid, "Nine months' winter and three months' hell", since in the first and second rounds I spent what seemed like a lifetime in cool northern places (glad I'd brought a coat, regretting the sandals), and now approach the accelerating last week in conditions that virtually guarantee sunstroke.

I came to Avignon because I'd been promised a hotel closer to the heart of things, where it might be possible to talk to other human beings and buy newspapers. In fact, my hotel was at the station, which looked good on the map, and I dragged my increasingly loathsome, dead-weight luggage to its door, which confusingly doubled as a car-rental desk, causing me to do a lot of five-point-turn dithering on the pavement. But, when I finally dumped myself at reception with a sweaty "Bonjour!", I was told my reservation was not here at all; it was at a different branch of this hotel, in an industrial park on the outskirts.

They were lying, as it turned out. But, in any case, I refused to go to the industrial park, and I'm ashamed to say, threw a tantrum. There is no internationally famous

song about people dancing at the industrial park in Avignon. As any fool knows, they dance *sur le pont*. So I wept and huffed and everything, and then just sulked on my bum outside the station under a tree, refusing to move until the travel agent back in London worked it out.

A taxi-driver (sniff) asked me what was wrong (sniff) and said I could stay in his house if I wanted, adding hastily that, of course, he would be there too.

So, if that's what happens on rest days, I'd rather keep up the momentum of the football, if it's all the same. Players at this level shouldn't require rests, not if they're proper athletes. Such namby-pambying makes them soft.

Meanwhile, as I was heaving my laptop computer onto the luggage rack on the Avignon train, I was struck by a ghastly premonition: that on the last day of the World Cup, after five weeks of shouldering its crippling weight, someone would comment in the press box, "Oh, that's interesting, Lynne. Why did you decide to keep the lead bars in yours?"

LYNNE TRUSS



## Pitbull starts to bite back at last

Kevin McCarran on Holland's relief at the recent reconciliation between Edgar Davids and his manager

As a means of fostering peace between countries, international football was laughed into disrepute decades ago, but perhaps it can still be a means of mending bridges between individuals. The divide that separated Guss Hiddink, the Holland coach, and Edgar Davids, the midfield player, was closed completely on Monday as the two men embraced to celebrate the latter's winning goal in the second-round match with Yugoslavia.

Such warmth had been inconceivable over the two years in which Davids had been omitted from the squad after his criticisms of Hiddink at Euro 96. The World Cup has turned into a sustained revelation of the cost to each party of that absence. In Davids' period with Ajax, Louis van Gaal, the manager, coined the affectionate name of "the pitbull" for him, but tenacity is only one of his virtues.

In the 5-0 victory over South Korea, in the group stage, Davids regulated magnificently the pace and direction of the build-up. For the player himself, there has been the relief of entering an occasion that allows him to face his peers, the leading talents in the world. The past few months with Juventus, which admittedly took Davids to a Serie A championship and a place in the European Cup final defeat by Real Madrid, do not compare with the majesty of this tournament.

There has been cause to worry over the career of Davids, who won the European Cup with Ajax in 1995 when he was 22. A year later, he took advantage of the Bosman ruling and moved to AC Milan on a free transfer, but he was joining a club where the pressures were greater and the relationships more complex. He could not expect to be the dominant

force at the San Siro and nor, as it turned out, was it safe for him even to assume that he would be picked.

Davids and AC Milan never seemed to be in harmony. The club felt that a young player should live in town, but he secluded himself in the country. A street brawl in Amsterdam, which led to a court appearance, was also an embarrassment to his employers. His value was called into question as well when he broke his leg during a match in Perugia in February 1997. Milan must have been thrilled to sell him to Juventus for £3.5 million at the end of last year.

The relief did not last. Juventus, under the coaching of Marcello Lippi, have benefited from a stability that

Milan have lacked in the past two seasons. The orderliness revived Davids, removing all distractions and restoring the clarity to his football. He had once more become an embarrassment to Milan, but only because of the chagrin felt at the sight of the midfield player providing a rival team with such fine service.

There was much mischief in the suggestion that Juventus might also like to buy Patrick Kluyvert, another former Ajax player to have performed disappointingly at Milan. Davids and Kluyvert are both products of Schellingwoude, a boys' club on the fringes of Amsterdam.

Davids was born in Surinam and is one of a group of black players in the Holland squad who have been variously regarded as disruptive elements or, to their admirers, independent spirits. The disciplines of the squad had to be accepted by Davids before he could return to the fold, but it would be an error for any supporter to wish him compliant. It is his pride and passionate nature that make him essential.



'Milan must have been thrilled to sell Davids for £3.5m'

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THE TIMES  
Enigma



Hick has found contentment with his beloved Worcestershire, for whom the centuries keep coming. Older, wiser and maybe even better, he refuses to accept that his international days are over

**S**portsmen, or those who like to analyse them, speak glibly of pressure and expectation, of mental barriers and demons in the mind. Coming from most, it is exaggerated at best and ludicrous at worst. Yet, when Graeme Hick chooses to unburden himself on such matters, there is no scope for scepticism, for there has never been a cricketer who has been so loudly touted then so publicly scorned.

Hick's name was the cricketing buzz word of the late 1980s. His run-scoring was prodigious and the country waited impatiently for his metamorphosis from Zimbabwean to English. Doors were opened for him, his qualification period reduced and, as 1991 dawned, there was a communal holding of breath as he arrived to transform the depressed fortunes of the Test team.

Nothing, so the propaganda went, was beyond Hick. He was 25 and would be master of his stage until the millennium and beyond. The reality was different: perhaps nobody had bothered to look beneath the helmet and to wonder if the man was too innocent and impressionable to cope with such an assumption.

He has gone two years without being picked for the Test side when the paradox is that he has never been better equipped for it. His batting has recovered its swagger, but only now does he have the head to go with it. He is wise enough to identify what went wrong and strong enough to talk about it.

Hick polarises the country like no other cricketer. There are those

# Hick no longer running scared

He was the batsman England craved and then discarded.

He awaits his chance to try again. Photograph: Gavin Fogg

who still denigrate him for his failure to meet the public anticipation of greatness and rage against any prospect of his recall. But there are probably more whose belief in him is staunch and who cannot comprehend how England, parious England, can opt to do without him.

Hick's recent summons to Lord's on the eve of the second Test, as cover for Alec Stewart, capped a remarkable few weeks in which he made five centuries, including his hundredth in first-class cricket. Time was when the call to international arms would have diminished him, but it was a different Hick who made his way to London on what transpired to be an empty errand.

"There was no apprehension, I just felt a real sense of excitement. I drove down with loud music in my car and kept looking in the mirror wondering if it was the same person," he said, laughing at himself with none of the old self-consciousness. "I wanted Stewie to play for the sake of the side, of course, but half of me wanted to give him a nudge in his bad back. At least I have the comfort of knowing it was my name that the selectors pulled out of the hat."

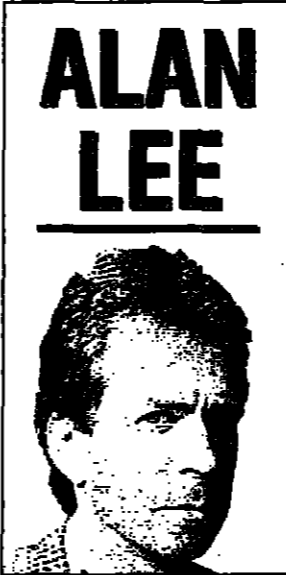
In 1991, the only self-doubt that did not assail Hick was whether the selectors would look favourably upon him. They could hardly do otherwise, such was the premature clamour. But Hick then scrambled only 75 runs from his

first seven innings, against West Indies. A balloon has never burst so resoundingly and, not for the last time, he was dropped without completing a series.

"Maybe, through the pressure of what was to come, I hadn't played well at the start of that season, and once my first couple of England games had gone badly I became scared of continual failure," he said. "I was going out worrying about what was going to happen, and, sometimes, I had undone myself before I reached the middle."

The burden on Hick was suddenly quite different. It was not expectation that he had to cope with but derision: "Certain people were happy to see me fail and I gave it to them on a silver plate. I received numerous letters at that time, telling me where to go in short, sharp sentences. One or two did hurt me, because I wasn't mentally strong enough to rise above it."

As his troubles continued and the predicted centuries seemed ever more elusive, Hick began to suffer a genuine crisis of identity. He had been a painfully shy youth, his inhibitions masked only by the deceptive disdain with which he punished inferior bow-



**ALAN LEE**

ing attacks, but, in the harsh environs of Test cricket, it was not just a flawed technique that was exposed. He betrayed a personality that could too easily be deflated and injured.

Eventually, he stood at the crease utterly without presence, the look in his eyes inviting disaster. The assumption that he would bat like a colossus had

taken no account of the fact that he had not completely grown up.

"I felt a bit persecuted," he said. "I took all the comments and criticisms personally, whereas I realise now that it's just how the system works and that the same thing will happen to others. I was so insecure that I wouldn't talk to people I didn't know and I'd sometimes avert my eyes from those I did. My self-esteem was very low. I didn't walk into a place and stand broad-shouldered with my head high, as I would now. I had some demons, for sure."

Central to Hick's difficulties was the feeling that he did not quite belong in the England dressing-room. This emanated from the peripheries, areas of the public and media, but also, he says, from within. In some eyes, he could not be one of the boys, partly because he was not originally English. It is plainly a sensitive subject and, for the first time, a silence descended while he gathered his thoughts.

"At times I felt the qualification thing was an issue in the side," he said. "It was spoken of a lot at first, even mentioned in team meetings. To me, we were all in the same ship and all going the same way, but it is true it took me

quite a while to feel part of things. It's very important to a player to feel he belongs and I have certainly had my ups and downs."

Michael Atherton famously declared with Hick 98 not out in Sydney four years ago, but he says he bears no grudges. He is more critical about instances of insensitivity, when he felt the hierarchy failed to understand him.

Hick is anxious now to avoid giving the impression that he regards his Test career in the past tense. "My intention is to get back in the England side and play for another five or six years," he said, with striking confidence. "Pride is important to me and there were times when I had very little. I feel good about myself now, but there is that one more thing I need, just to put the steel caps on the shoes. I don't see anyone better around when I'm playing well."

There is much that is different about Hick these days. It may reflect the contentment of his home life in a hamlet above Worcester, with his wife, Jackie, and children Lauren, 6, and Jordan, 2. He has become vice-captain of his beloved Worcestershire, where support for him knows no bounds, and speaks openly of taking over one day from Tom Moody. When it is suggested that he has hardly been the extrovert character associated with leadership, he chuckles his way into an anecdote. "We played at the Oval last Sunday and we

were each supposed to choose some favourite music to walk out to bat by. By the time I looked at the list there was not a lot left, so I chose *Wild Thing* for a laugh. I thought Stewie might raise his eyebrows when I came in to bat. "I think my personality has changed. I don't want to use the word 'matured' but I feel there is a lot I can offer in the dressing-room through calling on my experiences. I find it easy to talk to a player who needs advice, but I'm wary of imposing myself. I don't want to fill anyone up with things they don't need, because I've had that myself. I used to take in too much rather than being thick-skinned and just saying: 'Right, you lot, this is the way I play.'"

**Y**ou hope he might be so forthright if the chance does come again, as many are convinced it must. In the meantime, he continues to be the model professional. He says he has practised harder than ever this year — "I get disappointed when I can't find a net" — and his fitness remains formidable. He says he is tired of too much stale cricket on flat pitches — "the ones I'm supposed to have cashed in on", he adds with a raise of the eyebrows — but, even after 13 seasons and with a benefit due next year, he is far from tired of cricket itself.

"I want to play into my late 30s at least, then wake up one day and catch people out by retiring, just walking away. But I've got a bit to do first. For a start, I want to get back to Sydney this winter. That place owes me a couple of runs."

## A double act of the old school

John Woodcock pays his tribute to the Bedser twins of Surrey, who reach 80 not out today

**A**lec and Eric Bedser, cricket's chosen twins, are 80 today, an occasion that will be suitably celebrated at the London Hilton on Monday evening. There, at a dinner to be given in their honour, the speakers will be John Major, Richie Benaud, Geoffrey Evans and John Warr — as well-balanced a team as Surrey's in the 1950s.

More than anything, perhaps, Alec is remembered for his bowling against Australia during the first four Ashes series after the Second World War. Until Trueman and Statham and Tyson and Laker and Lock came along, he was the England attack. Being without him was more than one dared to think about. He had a good moan about it at the time; but that was all a part of the act and of the fun and the motivation. In 21 Tests against Australia, Alec took 105 wickets. Eighteen of those were Arthur Morris's, and Arthur has been flown over from Australia for Monday's entertainment.

A favourite image from across the years is of Alec in his delivery stride, left arm pointing to the sky, his weight thrown well back on the right foot at the start of the final swing, with Evans standing up to the wicket and Morris, one of Australia's greatest left-handed batsmen, taking strike; no helmets, no constant yapping from behind the stumps, no logos, no tantrums and yet no half-measures. If Morris was deceived by what to him was Alec's off-cutter, Len Hutton was at backward short leg, a safe pair of hands some ten yards from the bat.

The last England tour of Australia that I was not privileged to be on was in 1946-47, the days when, if you were lucky and had the right sort of wireless, you could pick up the commentary of Arthur Gilligan and Victor Richardson crackling

across the world. In Australia in 1924-25 they had captained England and Australia respectively, and on the air they became quite a turn, never especially profound but much cherished. One of the highlights of that bitterly cold winter was listening to them when the great Don Bradman was bowled for nought by Bedser just before the close of play on the second day of the Adelaide Test match. It was 6.52am Oxford time and made the most wonderful start to the day.

"That's dad off the mark with a four," said the seven-year-old John Bradman at the time, as he and his mother made for the car park to escape the rush. He had heard the roar of the crowd and they were out of sight of the play. In fact, it was dad being bowled by what amounted to a fast leg break from Bedser, more commonly known as his leg-cutter.

It was arguably the defining moment of Alec's career in which he took five or more wickets in an

innings 15 times for England and became a national institution. Although, after retirement, he chose even more England sides as a selector than he had played in, he got his knighthood, I fancy, as much as what he stood for as for what he had done. With him to the Palace, of course, went the indistinguishable Eric, and had he, rather than Alec, knelt to be dubbed, the Queen, I am sure, would have been none the wiser. If the weight of Alec's labours between the ages of 28 and 40 (he bowled 39,279 balls for Surrey and England) has left him a little thinner in the face than Eric, you need to see them together to notice it.

To begin with they both bowled at the same strong medium pace (much the same as Angus Fraser's) but, seeing the advantages of having something different to offer, Eric became a good enough off spinner and a solid enough batsman to be given a Test trial in 1950. Between them they caught 525

catches, nothing much escaping those great mitts of theirs, though when it came to chasing the ball in the field they preferred to leave that to others more nimble. With some fine, steady driving, Alec once scored 79 against Australia at Headingley, after going in as a nightwatchman, while among Eric's 14,716 first-class runs were ten centuries, made with some fine, steady driving.

On board ship they were unbeatable in the doubles at deck tennis, dropping nothing and reaching everything. Had twins come along for them to marry, there might well in time have been another Bedser or two in the England, or even the Australia, side — for Australia has long been their second home. When they go there together this winter it will be for the 26th time.

**T**hey are as punctilious as they are unmistakable, as predictable as they are endearing, some might say inordinately reactionary. They talk, walk, dress and think alike, and yet when Eric first appeared, ten minutes before Alec, Mrs Bedser had no idea there was another to come.

Published as a book of letters, the correspondence between Alec and Sir Donald Bradman would make a revealing and definitive history of cricket in the second half of the 20th century, just as a catalogue of the confusion caused by their identicalness would be a best-seller. Once, when Alec went to visit Eric in hospital and encountered the ward sister in the corridor, he was given a dressing down and told to get back into bed at once.

Today they will have their usual round of golf at West Hill, driving, pitching and putting with clubs and a swing that match. If a few puts go in, one or the other might even beat his age.



Sir Alec, right, and brother Eric in a familiar Oval setting

## One day, someone will look back and laugh about this

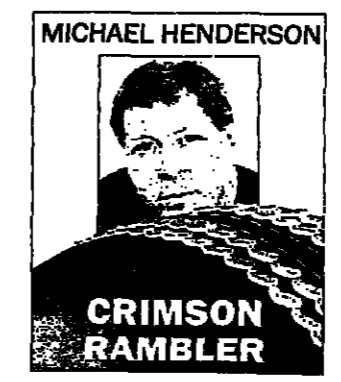
**W**HAT a fine thing it must be to travel in time. Imagine going back to Ancient Rome, or the Court of the Sun King, or Vienna at the turn of the century. Assuming, of course, that we know what we do today. A dull dog he would be if a chap's eyes did not light up at the prospect of giving events a nudge here, a prod there, to alter the course of history.

It would be spiffing to escort reverse travellers through our own age. To show Charlemagne a map of modern Europe, say, or invite Gutenberg to float across the Internet, or accompany Titian through the Saatchi Collection.

Each age is a mystery to the one that succeeds it. This century began with the motor car and ends with a mission to Mars. The social changes have been equally vast, even if the mystery of human experience remains essentially the same, despite the worst attempts of psychology, international socialism and the intellectual fraud known as "post-modernism".

Sport has changed so much in the past 20 years that the innocent days of the Sixties seem to belong to another century, and the postwar years are positively ante-diluvian. What a pleasure, therefore, to come across a cricket book, published by Methuen 97 years ago, which admits the reader to another age. If only it were possible for the author to join us as we venture into a new century.

*The Lighter Side of Cricket*, by Captain Philip Trevor, bears a dedication to MCC ("the only competent, the only possible authority on the game"), and is a page, all 296 of them. There are 26 chapters, which bear strict headings such as *The Pavilion*



**MICHAEL HENDERSON**  
**CRIMSON RAMBLER**

Cricketer, Regimental Cricket, Country House Cricket, Literary Cricket and Cricket for Women (a daring stroke, sir). The tone alternates between severity and irony, and bears the familiar late Victorian manner of the grossly over-written. For instance, there is some doggerel that would not look out of place in an anthology of Mr McGonagall. An Ode to W.G. Grace begins:

"O big, O broad, O great, O grand! I grovel to you à la mode." And grovel he does.

One after another they crash towards shore, huge breakers of sentiment. Try this:

"Occurrences at times take place upon the cricket field which a section of the Press, with wary astuteness, refers to as 'regrettable incidents' but which the schoolboy, in more direct Saxon, describes as 'dirty tricks'."

So nothing much has changed there.

Or this: "The most eloquent testimonial to the attractions which a cricket tour possesses is furnished by the fact that one enjoys them in

spite of the combined machinations of Mr Bradshaw and the Railway Companies." Aha! An early British Rail joke.

Or how about this: "I should like to take the enlightened foreigner — for I presume that, in spite of recent continental evidence to the contrary, that being really does exist on a tour of our English public schools."

If he had seen the Radley-Marlborough match last year, which led to a suspension of sporting fixtures between two of our grandest schools, the enlightened foreigner might have concluded that *pétanque* was considerably less vexatious.

The most troubling observation is surely this: "It would amount to little short of a national disgrace if, after the lapse of more than a hundred years, there should be a decadence in the established morality of the cricket field." Mmm. Let's keep quiet on that one.

Of the established morality of the field, he would probably think he was in another world. In his day spectators did not wear Lloyd George masks, or Bernard Shaw beards, or dress up as the Kaiser. Nor did C. B. Fry pronounce, as did some foot soldier from the Barry Army this week, that "fun is the only future for the game." What he didn't go on to say was that the fun he had in mind prevents others from enjoying the cricket as they would like.

How we laugh at the bizarre habits of the past, Larkin's "fools with old-style hats and coats", their florid language and puzzling habits. But the wheel turns. It always does. A hundred years from now, they will be laughing at us. Roaring.

صكنا من الأصل



Bowlers remain powerless to halt South Africa's stately progress on another depressing day

England offer graphic statement

Kirsten's epic lacks real punchline

BY ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of five): South Africa have scored 457 for four wickets against England

THE second day at Old Trafford was eerily similar to the first, and the repeat was no more appealing than the original. South Africa batted on without mercy, their attitude exemplified by Gary Kirsten's second double-century in consecutive innings, and England's role was that of disturbingly idle bystanders. It will be different today, though, and England must bat with stirring resolve, for they are setting out to save not only a match or a series but the public perception of their game.

Such stark realism will not be welcomed within the offices of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), whose reaction to widespread depression about declining support and standards is increasingly sensitive. Yesterday, shortly before disgruntled sections of the Manchester crowd jeered England off the field for the tea interval, the ECB issued a statement as untimely as it was unwise.

Richard Peel, the board's Director of Corporate Affairs, claimed that it was "misleading" to portray a game in crisis. "It's typical that one disappointing day for English cricket prompts the cry that the game is dying," he said, which was a shade rich on more than one count. Did he mean it was "typical" of a mischievous media or a nation quick to knock? And from where did he get the idea that merely one bad day was souring the mood?

Even as South Africa were adding one more to England's long list of bad days, the ECB was attempting some self-justification on crowd figures, sponsorship and development. "If you read all the papers today one gets the impression the game is going down the plughole and no one is doing anything about it," Peel said.

It was fair enough to remind us all that northern Test crowds have long been variable but the fact remains that the attendance here on Thursday was barely half the first day figure for Old Trafford Tests against Australia last year, and West Indies in 1996.

It was also disingenuous to boast of one and a half million schoolchildren playing the game, when most are confined to the embryonic Kwik Cricket, and to claim £30 million sponsorship in 18 months, when several leading companies have just withdrawn from the game.

Peel did later concede that the game needs to be more appealing and that a losing Test team is less marketable



Gary Kirsten sweeps Croft for one of his 24 fours during his monumental double century, the longest innings by a South African in Tests

than one that wins now and again. "But the development of a world-beating England side is an ongoing process," he said. He might have had trouble convincing anyone present yesterday on this point.

The pitch was obstinately placid and Kirsten, whose innings was the longest by a South African in Test cricket, did bat with monumental dedication. It was a thankless place to be a bowler.

That said, England wore a fatalistic air from early in the day, as if their function was simply to await their turn at the crease. This game now has only two directions to turn and the tedious draw is not yet favourite over the crushing South Africa win.

Their partnership was worth 238 when Gough bowled Kallis with the type of ball that must fill his dreams, pitching on off stump and hitting it. Few players in the game would have survived it.

There was movement for Cork, too, while the ball retained its shine, but as Daryll Cullinan seamlessly replaced Kallis, England were soon retreating once again.

Before lunch, defensive fields and delaying tactics were symptoms of a side that had no idea where its next wicket was coming from.

Kirsten was doing what he does better than almost anyone playing the game, correct and rhythmical defence interspersed with the occasional peep above the parapet to drive or pull. His timing was far better than on Thursday

and, once past his first hundred, a second seemed almost inevitable.

Robert Croft wheeled away tidily, which is to damn him with the usual faint praise. Often bowling too quickly to deceive, seldom obtaining any appreciable turn, he got through another 24 overs without reward and has now bowled 84 in a series that has yet to yield him a wicket. Some

time soon, England must disprove an attacking spin bowler. It may be Ian Salisbury, who took another seven wickets for Surrey at Swansea yesterday, but it is unlikely to be Ashley Giles. A decent county bowler, he has neither the control nor the penetration to make an impact at this level.

Giles did take a wicket, the third of the day and his first in Test cricket, when Cullinan chopped the ball on as he made room to cut. It will be surprising, however, if Paul Adams, South Africa's left-arm spinner, does not look distinctly more threatening today.

Kirsten finally fell to Fraser through fatigue, which was understandable in one who had batted six minutes longer than Michael Atherton's epic act of defiance at Johannesburg three years ago. Something similar will be required of Atherton today if England are to avoid adding to the real, rather than imagined, woes of the game.

Think of all the things that Hansie Cronje could have done in the past couple of days, if he had had the inclination. Between winning the toss on Thursday morning and taking his turn in the middle yesterday, when the South Africa first innings was approaching its twelfth hour, he could have translated the *Iliad*, pressed enough grapes to make a wine lake the size of Windermerre, or flown to California and back.

Perhaps he did. Perhaps he robbed a bank and scattered the notes among the deserving poor of Moss Side, saying "I am Robin Hood come back to deliver you from your misery." Perhaps he went to Knotty Ash for a tutorial with the master himself, Ken Dodd, and came back with a tickling stick and a Bumper Book of Jests.

He could have done all of those things, and more, for all that anybody at Old Trafford cared. Not a soul spotted him until he walked out to bat at 4.50pm, moments after the crowd had begun to serenade the England players with the fragment of a song that they will not want to hear again: "You'll never take a wicket."

It made a change from "What a load of rubbish", which came from the other side of the ground when the players walked off at tea-time. That was a bit harsh, as the barrackers knew, because they didn't sing it with much conviction. Nevertheless, four wickets in two days of Test cricket, taken as the batsmen gallop along at fewer than three runs an over, does not make the pulse race.

For the second successive day, Old Trafford was gripped by ennui. Until the beer started talking in the middle of the afternoon, at about the time that the England and Wales Cricket Board were distributing an ill-considered and poorly phrased press release that bore the mark of people who suspect they are wrong, the mood among the spectators was one of acquiescence, which gave way to resignation and eventually found its natural key of irony.

Of all the things an Old Trafford crowd looks forward to the sight of a dour South Africa opener spreading 210 runs across 11 long hours is not high on the list. If Kirsten thinks dour is a shade harsh, let him contest it with his bat. His solid qualities do not make him less valuable a Trent Bridge!

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Old Trafford

player for his side, but neither do they make him worth watching any more closely.

On a flat pitch, against bowlers who could neither trick the batsmen off the pitch or through the air, Kirsten did what he would have expected to do. He filled his boots. It was not thrilling. It was not meant to be. South Africa set out to bat England out of the match, and they succeeded thoroughly. If they can go on to win it, so much the better. If they can't, there is always the Trent Bridge featherbed on which to make 500 more.

Days from now and people will struggle to recall a single shot that Kirsten played. That is often the way with these battle-hardened openers. Nobody ever went to watch John Edrich to be dazzled by his strokeplay, and Bill Lawry drove many a punter to the land of Nod. Slowly, without mercy or sentiment, Kirsten batted on and on and on. He had seen Michael Atherton do it in Johannesburg, albeit in more demanding circumstances, and paid England back in their own coinage.

It is not an ideal pitch for a good Test match. Peter Maron, the groundsman, produced a better for the recent championship match here between Lancashire and Somerset. It had bounce and pace, but they were never going to let him provide something like that for the visit of Allan Donald. Perhaps he should tell them all to get off his back. Cricket like this is not going to win the game many friends.

Stil, nil desperandum. English cricket is in rude health. How do we know? They're building a hotel at Trent Bridge!

SCOREBOARD FROM OLD TRAFFORD

Table with cricket statistics including South Africa won loss, South Africa: First Innings, and Bowling details for Gough, Fraser, and others.

Derby's local lads tame Essex attack

DERBY (third day of four): Derbyshire (20pts) beat Essex (4) by 181 runs

NOT SO long ago, Derbyshire were almost bereft of players born within the county boundary. Times are changing as Trevor Smith and Kevin Dean, both medium-fast bowlers from Derby, completed a remarkable and rare victory against Essex.

Smith, 21, playing only his second championship game, took the first six wickets at a cost of 32 runs, while Dean, 22, extinguished the tail with four wickets for two runs in 14 balls as Essex succumbed tamely with five sessions of the game remaining.

Franks inspires rout of hapless Middlesex

TRENT BRIDGE (third day of four): Nottinghamshire (23pts) beat Middlesex (3) by an innings and 92 runs

WHEN Alex Wharf knocked back Phil Tufnell's middle stump 40 minutes after lunch, Nottinghamshire completed only their second championship win in what has, so far, been a very ordinary season.

It should have been a moment for back-slapping and general bonhomie for a job well done, especially by Paul Franks, 19, who had completed his first five-wicket haul. But jubilation was tempered by the knowledge that victory had been achieved against a Middlesex side that, for the second time in the match, had showed little stomach for the fight.



Franks five wickets

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

Table with cricket statistics including Middlesex: First Innings, Nottinghamshire: First Innings, and Bowling details for Franks, Wharf, and others.

Advertisement for Vodafone featuring the text 'Guess who we Beat on the price of short local calls?' and the Vodafone logo.

CRICKET

Brown and Ward make light work of chase

By PAT GIBSON

SWANSEA (third day of four): Surrey (20pts) beat Glamorgan (4) by six wickets

SURREY made light of the loss of four Test players — Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe and Ben Hollis — to England. Mark Butcher to injury — to strengthen their position at the top of the county championship with their fifth and most significant victory of the season.

In the final analysis, the absence of Waqar Younis and Robert Croft from the Glamorgan attack was far more damaging to the reigning champions whose hopes of bowling out Surrey on a turning pitch were destroyed by a match-winning fourth wicket partnership of 156 between Ian Ward and Alistair Brown.

Brown, living dangerously as ever, overcame an uncomfortable start to accelerate to his third championship century of the summer, hitting five sixes and six fours. Ward, who is making the most of his second chance in county cricket, supported him with a studious unbeaten 74.

If a side is judged by its strength in depth, Surrey seem to be heading for their first title since 1971. They were always going to suffer from international calls and never more so than when runs were at a premium as they were here — but they overcame the problem with a thoroughly professional performance.

Their victory was set up by the magnificent swing bowling of Martin Bicknell and Adam Hoollock in Glamorgan's first innings and the equally impressive spin of Ian Salisbury and Saqain Mushtaq in their second, but it was clinched by the spirit running through the side.

No one epitomised it better than Salisbury who should not have been playing at all after sustaining a torn groin muscle. He was understandably feeling sore last night but Surrey decided to risk him after looking at the pitch and he responded by taking seven for 65, his best figures since joining from Sussex at the end of the 1996 season.

Salisbury, who seems to have eliminated the long hops and full tosses that always used to blight his bowling, took three of Glamorgan's last four wickets which went down in the first hour yesterday for the addition of 42 runs.

This left Surrey needing to score 211 to win with almost 5½ sessions to get them in, but it would not have been easy had Waqar been there to bruise the batsmen's toes and Croft to exploit the generous turn.

As it was, they had to rely mainly on Dean Cosker, the former England Under-19 left arm spinner and, manfully as he toiled, he could not be expected to do the job with so little support.

He did take two early wickets, bowling Ratcliffe, who had inadvertently given Glamorgan a second new ball by being the first one on to the Mumbles Road where a car ran over it, and having Shahid caught at extra cover.

By then, however, Ward, a compact left-hander, who was released after one season with Surrey in 1992, but reinstated four years later, had once more settled in, and though Hoollock fell leg-before to Thomas for a duck, Glamorgan knew Brown could be the danger man. He almost chopped a ball from Cosker into his stumps on nought, edged Thomas short of first slip and saw a bat-pad chance evade silly point — but there after he made hay. His first 50 came from 82 balls, his second from 51, including four towering sixes. He had just reached his hundred when he was leg-before in Cotley, leaving Ward to settle the issue.

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Yorkshire fielders indulge in a bout of high-fives after the dismissal of Ward for a fiercely struck 94

Simmons sets up Durham for kill

By RICHARD HOBSON

DARLINGTON (third day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Durham (3) by an innings and 103 runs

FOR THE fifth time in six seasons, Leicestershire inflicted an innings defeat upon Durham, stories of whose recovery appear to be greatly exaggerated, for they lost 15 wickets in two sessions on a true pitch yesterday.

Leicestershire's full haul of points enabled them to climb to second place in the championship. Although they will slip to third if Sussex overcame Somerset today, their title credentials are impressive and there is a sense of well-being in the dressing-room.

Little went wrong at Feethams for Chris Lewis, the captain in the absence of James Whitaker. When Durham resumed their first innings at 102 for five, 163 short of the follow-on target, he tossed the ball to Phil Simmons when he might have bowled himself. Once into his rhythm, Simmons swung the ball both ways, took four wickets in nine deliveries and

finished with career-best figures of seven for 49 — improving on his six for 14 against Durham two years ago.

It seemed reasonable to assume that Simmons would continue when Durham went in again, 280 behind. But Lewis has never been predictable. This time he turned to the medium pace of Vince Wells. Morris padded up to his first ball and Jon Lewis edged him to gully. When Simmons did rejoin the attack, Speak immediately drove ineffectually to point.

Mullally then removed Collingwood's leg stump and Lewis held a full-blooded drive by Boon at short cover off Wells. Next, Carl Crowe, an off spinner who went wicketless on his previous championship appearance three years ago, accounted for Speight and Phillips with successive deliveries, and Betts in his next over.

Boon now cut a brooding figure on the players' bench and not even a stand of 58 in ten overs between the enterprising Wood and Daley could raise a smile.

Somerset are kept at bay by Bevan

By JOHN STERN

Gloucestershire (third day of four): Kent (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 248 runs to beat Hampshire

THERE is a certain inevitability about Michael Bevan at the moment. No one looks as though they can get him out. He has more than doubled his tally this season in the past three innings by scoring 366 runs, during which time he has been dismissed just once.

Yesterday Sussex's Australian left-hander ran out of partners for the second consecutive innings, finishing not out on 146 as Sussex were dismissed for 493, giving them a first-innings lead of 163 over Somerset. The difference this time was that his innings set up the opportunity for victory, unlike his unbeaten 149 in a dead match against Leicestershire at Grace Road five days ago.

Sussex must make the most of Bevan because, like Darren Lehmann, his successor at Yorkshire, he has been selected for Australia's Commonwealth Games squad and will miss the last two championship matches of the season. He also missed the first two fixtures of the campaign, so time is of the essence for him. The only criticism that can

be levelled at Bevan and, indeed, his colleagues is that they perhaps could have batted with a touch more vigour. Sussex began the day on 326 for three and one would have expected the foot to have been pressed to the floor from the off.

Although a lead of 163 is substantial, it does not offer any guarantees on a pitch of such unthreatening nature. Still, an innings that contains three well-constructed centuries is to be applauded.

Mark Newell added 14 to his overnight score before edging Rose to Harden at first slip for 118. Martin Jenkins, with 26, kept Bevan company but 127, pace dropped after lunch for no apparent reason. From 441 for seven at the interval, Sussex added only 52 runs in 24 overs before Robinson, still one of the game's genuine No 11s, was leg before to Caddick first ball.

Caddick was into his 40th over before taking his first wicket of the innings, knocking Lewry's off stump half a dozen yards back the ball before Robinson's departure.

Fulton sets himself to frustrate Yorkshire

By IVO TENNANT

MAIDSTONE (third day of four): Kent (24pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by six wickets in hand, need 248 runs to beat Hampshire

AFTER appearing for much of this match as if they would go under by an innings and plenty, Kent are now performing spiritedly enough to save it. David Fulton batted all day, making 142, the highest score of his career, and Trevor Ward struck 94 with a panache that he had not shown hitherto this season. Their lead, nonetheless, is only 74 and hence much will depend on how the Yorkshire bowlers fare in the first hour this morning.

Ward's innings was the pick for it contained drives and short-arm pulls that were high-class shots of the kind he can play when the mood takes him. And yet he had made only 184 runs in 13 innings this season, which would suggest his place was in jeopardy. It might well have been Ed Smith not broken a finger.

Kent, not surprisingly, had been asked to follow on at the start of the day, 258 behind. When Key was out, leg-before struck on a boot, they were still 211 in arrears. Ward then produced a fusillade of shots that were counter-balanced by Fulton's concentration and application. By the time they were parted, having put on 172 in 40 overs, Yorkshire were bereft of ideas on how to bowl to them.

The difference now was that the clouds were higher, the ball did not swing and simply that Kent batted markedly better than in their first innings. Fulton concerns himself, sensibly enough, with collecting runs within his own compass, making the most of anything overpitched. His century, only his second in the championship in seven seasons, came off 181 balls and included 12 fours. Ward, by contrast, struck 17 fours in a considerably shorter stay.

Stemp took the second of his four wickets when McGrath struck sharply to hold a pull by Ward at mid-wicket, and the left-arm spinner then had Hooper leg-before, sweeping, and Wells caught at short mid-off before Ealham provided considerable support for Fulton, who was still concentrating fiercely come the close.

Hampshire rely on McLean's double act

By JOHN THICKNESS

SOUTHAMPTON (third day of four): Gloucestershire (16pts) beat Hampshire (16pts) by eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 248 runs to beat Hampshire

NIXON McLEAN, Hampshire's West Indies fast bowler, came to his new club's rescue twice at Southampton yesterday, once with bat and once with ball, and the second time — two wickets in five balls — might well prove the decisive action against Gloucestershire.

Needing to score 331 for their fourth win of the season, Gloucestershire were well on course to complete the task at their leisure today, as Tim Hancock and Nick Trainor reached 71 six overs from the end of a fluctuating day.

But then McLean, who had earlier redeemed Hampshire's fading hopes with a whirlwind 43 batting at No 10, had Hancock acrobatically caught by John Stephenson leaping upwards at first slip, and followed by dismissing Jack Russell leg-before later in the over.

Even so, Gloucestershire were better placed than they could have expected before the morning restart, when Hampshire, 164 ahead at 156 for one, should have been in a position to dictate the terms for the remainder of the match. But their plan to declare at tea, leading by 400, started to misfire in the second over, when Whitaker was caught at the wicket carving at Walsh, a gift that proved the prelude to six wickets tumbling before lunch for 62 runs.

Shrewdly as Walsh bowled, taking four for 15 in 8.5 overs, it was a poor effort by Hampshire in conditions so much in favour of the bat. The critical wickets were those of Robin Smith, who was bowled by Walsh's slower ball, a recent and highly deceptive addition to his arsenal, and Stephenson, who, after battling to his first hundred of the season, succumbed after 368 minutes to a mistimed sweep.

Happy for Hampshire, James survived the collapse and, helped by Alex Morris and McLean, supervised the addition of 104 for the last three wickets, finishing 29 not out in 125 minutes.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with multiple columns listing cricket matches, teams, scores, and player statistics. Includes sections for Surrey, Kent v Yorkshire, Hampshire v Gloucestershire, Darlington, and Glamorgan v Swansea.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'Southampton looking for opponents put up a'.

Large advertisement for 'The Sunday Times Lady Cobra golf days'. Includes a photo of a golfer, text describing the event, and a booking form with fields for name, address, date, and payment details.

Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'مكتبة الأصيل'.

England made to suffer for an unprofessional approach



Davies: concerned

I believe I've a squad that can win a series in New Zealand. Currently, these 37 players are the best England have on offer and they have their chance to stake a claim for a World Cup place.

Clive Woodward, England coach, May 1998

WOODWARD'S upbeat assessment looked foolhardy even before the 'tour from hell' instantly assumed hideous proportions in the 76-0 mauling by Australia four weeks ago.

The damage to minds, bodies and reputations would not be so bad if lessons were heeded, but no Commercial imperatives rule, so

overseas players are chased with bigger cheques. Woodward's 'thickhead' administrators at the Rugby Football Union go on putting market forces before the national team's credibility, and English clubs will lessen the fixture burden from next season in the one area they can afford it least — Europe.

Greater leg-power and upper-body strength are merely the outward signs of southern hemisphere superiority. In attitude, preparation and training, there is a gulf. The Super-12 — a competition once derided by some English commentators as too frothy — has been the great liberating force in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, as all four home nations have found to their frightening cost over the summer.

When Jonathan Davies, the Wales captain on an ill-starred tour

Christopher Irvine on how better preparation has helped the southern hemisphere nations

of New Zealand in 1988, tried afterwards to put a few home truths to the Welsh Rugby Union annual meeting, he was hushed up. When Wales conceded 96 points to South Africa last Saturday — "we were lucky it wasn't 120" — Davies saw the most humiliating 80 minutes in Welsh rugby history provide evidence of all the myopia that still prevails.

Davies fears for England in Cape Town today. "If it's a dry day, the Springboks will roast them, unless the England front row can disrupt

TALE OF WOE

Rank	Team	P	W	L	F	A
1	England	5	0	5	56	260
2	Scotland	6	3	3	208	271
3	Wales	6	1	5	143	235
4	Ireland	7	2	5	118	222

Total All games: 28 6 20 8 243 948  
Internationals ... 10 1 9 147 486

them in their one weak area," he said. "Yes, England are missing some of their best players, but seven or eight of them would be first-choice selections anyway, so what does it say about them and England's second tier?"

All four home unions need to set aside differences and work out how to overhaul and improve the British game through education and

grass-roots development," Davies said. "I'm not talking the next World Cup or even 2003, but 2007 and beyond, because if these results don't bring about action, nothing will."

Apart from creating a generation of well-paid players, professionalism has brought none of the competitive vibrancy shown by the Super-12 and tri-nations series. Davies said: "Professionalism is killing ambition at the lower levels. Go down as far as division five and players are able to supplement incomes very tidily. Where are the incentives and where are the heroes?"

The heroes in football are there for all to see and inspire, but where are they in rugby union? Jeremy Guscott, yes, but where's the next Guscott coming from? My one hope for Wales is that now and again a magician does come along.

In England, all you seem to get is a sizeable breed of reasonably competent but hardly inspired individuals.

"Put one of New Zealand, South Africa or Australia in the Five Nations and they'd win it every year. New Zealand are not really bigger, stronger, faster. Where they're different is in attitudes of players and their dedication; coaches, who are not simply managers as they increasingly are in this country; and administrators, who have grasped professionalism with both hands and used it to empower the sport."

England's learning curve has been vertical. At Newlands, where the British Isles won their first game in the series defeat of South Africa a year ago, some of that spirit must be summoned. In this of all weeks, the nation cannot take another crushing England setback.

RUGBY UNION

South Africa looking for opponents to put up a fight

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN

THE Welsh and the Irish have gone from here, the English and Scots from Australasia, and all that remains is southern-hemisphere dismissal of the impression they have left behind. Only one game is left of this summer's British assault — perhaps too strong a word — on rugby perceptions south of the equator, the fifteenth meeting between South Africa and England at a rain-soaked Newlands today.

It is not a game that is likely to change those perceptions. An ill-considered tour, which began with a 76-0 defeat by Australia, seems certain to finish with another international loss though, with English team sport suffering on so many fronts, one almost becomes inured to it. Yet there are degrees of defeat: that suffered by Wales a week ago in Pretoria (96-13) was from the same category as that by England in Brisbane, whereas the English experience against New Zealand in Auckland the same day was quite another.

It may sound odd, but South Africa, or more particularly Nick Mallett, their coach, expect and seek a traditionally dogged England performance today. It will be South Africa's final match before the tri-nations tournament begins and that will be Mallett's most significant examination yet: it is the nature of South African rugby that the country at large can never be satisfied with the coach or the team unless they can deliver undiluted victory, as did the late Kitch Christie during the 1995 World Cup.

During his short tenure in office, Mallett has done precisely that: in eight fixtures, five away and three at home, his teams have averaged 51 points a match, but he has yet to coach a team against New Zealand or Australia. He needs England, whose first XV his team beat 29-11 at Twickenham last November, to offer a good workout in conditions he is likely to meet when South Africa travel to Wellington to meet their inveterate rivals, the All Blacks, on July 25.

"I'm looking to this game to provide a context for my Springbok side," Mallett said.

"England are missing some players but the strength of their rugby, like French rugby, is their depth.

"I remember how France, whom we beat 52-10, made nine changes and won the Five Nations. I prefer to look at how England played in Auckland last week, when the difference was in the individual talents of players like Christian Cullen and Jeff Wilson."

At least Mallett has his eyes focused firmly on the central issue for any coach — playing performance. Clive Woodward, his opposite number, who has been able to watch England's performance graph rise significantly these past four weeks, made an embarrassing diversion yesterday by removing his squad from their suburban hotel and parking them in a plush city-centre venue.

Woodward may believe that the hotel (where the British Isles stayed last year) suffers by comparison with the accommodation enjoyed by the South Africa squad but, with only 48 hours of the tour remaining, he has created unnecessary expense and loss of goodwill for the most limited of reasons. If his players perform better than expected today, he will feel justified in his actions, but to do that England will have to improve yet again on what was, at the finish, a 30-point defeat by New Zealand.



Leon Haslam, left, who is following in the tyretracks of his father, Ron, at Donington Park this weekend

Haslam happy to let son shine

There is occasionally something slightly unsettling about sporting prodigies, teenagers mature before their time, apprentice adults who make a mockery of their tender years with high achievement. If anything, they are even more unnerving about their talents and their ambitions than those who paid their dues before graduating.

To use a contemporary buzzword, they are focused. They know what they want and they know that they have the ability to turn nebulous hopes into concrete reality. Their narrowed, youthful eyes are affected by a tunnel vision that leads immutably to glory and universal acclaim. Michael Owen is focused. Martina Hingis is focused. And so is Leon Haslam.

Anybody passing young Haslam in the street would register little of the ordinary. In his school uniform, he is an unremarkable lad, slight of form and cherubic of feature. Take him out of the playground, however, and put him in the high-octane world of motorcycling, and he becomes a different animal altogether. Quite suddenly, this scion of a North Midlands family that is steeped in the sport, is transformed from schoolboy to formidable, fully-fledged racer.

This weekend, Haslam,

Mel Webb meets a teenaged motorcyclist with a famous family name to live up to

barely a month past his fifteenth birthday, will take on the great and the good of bike racing in the 125cc race at the British Grand Prix meeting at Donington Park. If parental example is any marker, he will acquire himself with pride and no little skill.

Haslam's father is Ron Haslam, who, in his greatest years in the late Eighties, won two world Formula One titles. Three world crown and twice finished fourth in the blue riband 500cc world championship. From almost the time he was a toddler, Leon and his mother, Ann, used to accompany Haslam père around the great race tracks of the world. The heady, oily perfume of big-time motorcycle racing was in his blood.

He was given his first motorbike when he was 4½, a little Honda on which he

would bomb around paddocks all over the globe. He was a competitive rider — in moto-cross — from the age of eight. What else could he do but become a racer?

He comes into the race tomorrow on the back of a successful first season in big-time racing on his Honda. Every country that stages a world championship meeting is allowed to nominate wildcard entries into various classes, and such is the impression that Haslam Jr has made in his rookie year that he has been chosen to take on the best riders in the world over 26 laps of Donington's 2.5-mile circuit.

Leon may have been born with the motorcycling equivalent of a silver spoon in his mouth, but there is no room for sentiment in the tough world that he inhabits. He has got his start on merit and

against a background of apparent paternal scepticism. "He had achieved a lot in motocross, but I didn't want him to persevere with the sport unless he really wanted to," his father said. "He had already broken his leg once and had now done so again when needing only to complete his last race to win the championship, so I purposely played down the future."

"I didn't want him to carry on just because of me, so while he was lying in bed in the hospital I said all sorts of things to put him off. I told him I wasn't keen on him carrying on, that I couldn't afford for him to continue in the sport. I was testing him. I suppose."

"I was still quite ashamed of myself when he spoke to Ann on his own and sent her back to ask me if he could have one more chance. It proved to me that his heart was really in it, and I made up my mind there and then to give him all the support I could."

As he reaches the biggest moment of his young life tomorrow, he has one more year at school but cares little for academia. He knows that no amount of examination passes will help him to make his mark in the sport he loves: "I know what I want to do. I've wanted to be a rider for as long as I can remember and am confident I can do it."



'The oily perfume of motorcycle racing was in his blood'

RUGBY LEAGUE

St Helens aiming to frustrate arch-rival

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ON THE corresponding visit to Wigan last season, St Helens broke a ten-year league duck at Central Park. The odds on a repeat performance there tomorrow are, at best, slim, after two defeats at the hands of their rivals already this season.

Losing to the arch-enemy for a third time in four months is not the way St Helens would want to close a testing enough first half of the season. Thoughts of relaxation in the short mid-term break will be tempered by the knowledge that Wigan loom again in the last of the JJB Super League "roadshow" matches at Swansea on July 26.

The enthusiasm of St Helens supporters dipped as the team's two-year hold on the Silk Cut Challenge Cup was wrenched away by Wigan at the quarter-final stage. It disappeared almost completely when Wigan followed that up three weeks later with an emphatic league win at Knowsley Road.

It is just St Helens' luck that Bobbie Goulding should miss the game with a torn calf muscle. The scrum half sustained the injury in his comeback after being dropped, the game against Salford Reds last Sunday in which he scored 24 points. On top of that, Andy Haigh requires an operation to reconstruct his left knee after cruciate ligament damage, but Paul Newlove is back at centre and Julian O'Neill returns to the pack.

Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, whose decision to drop Goulding produced the desired response from the player, said: "We're lucky there's no match after Sunday for three weeks until we play Wigan at Swansea. Hopefully, Bobbie will be fit by then. He was back to his best against Salford and the injury to Andy is a bitter blow because he's out for the season."

Tomorrow's game marks the return of Eric Hughes to St Helens as football operations manager, an appointment that has placed a question mark over the future of McRae, who replaced him as coach in January 1996 and whose contract expires at the end of the season. It is ironic, too, that Hughes' first game back should be at Wigan, eight months after he was dismissed to make way for John Monie as coach.

ATHLETICS

Scotland pin hopes on former winners

BY ALASDAIR REID

SCOTLAND named 11 former Commonwealth Games medal-winners in an initial group of 118 competitors to take part in the competition in Malaysia in September. The squad will be finalised later this month, when late selections for cricket, badminton and athletics will bring the party up to its full complement of around 150 members.

In a departure from tradition, no team captain has been named. Louise Martin, the Scotland assistant team manager, explained that the captain would only be chosen after consultation with team members, shortly before the squad departs for Kuala Lumpur in two months' time.

However, the most obvious candidate to fill the role will not be available. Yvonne Murray, whose win in the 10,000 metres event in Victoria four years ago provided Scotland's only athletics gold, withdrew from selection last month due to suspect form and her unwillingness to compete in the intense heat and humidity that athletics in Malaysia will experience. Liz McColgan, who won the 10,000 metres in 1986 and 1990, had already declined selection, citing differences with John Anderson, the athletics team manager.

Scotland's best hopes of men's gold on the track will rest with Ian Mackie and Doug Walker, British champions at 100 and 200 metres, respectively. Both will be seeking to emulate the achievements of Alan Wells, whose victories in the two sprints in Brisbane in 1982 brought Scotland's last two men's gold medals.

In other disciplines, Scotland should win medals through Peter Nicol, the squash world No 1, and in sports where they have been traditionally strong, such as bowling, shooting and badminton. Much will be expected of the women's hockey and four-strong tenpin bowling teams.

There will be no Scottish representation in the inaugural seven-a-side rugby union tournament, however. The Scottish Rugby Union declined to nominate a squad, after insisting there was a shortage of quality players.

A decision not to send any pistol shooting competitors had already been taken by the Scottish Commonwealth Games Council after the Dunblane massacre.

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RACING: DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE KEEN TO OVERCOME MEMORY OF PARK TOP'S UNLUCKY DEFEAT

Duck Row given chance to settle score in Eclipse

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST 30 years after suffering the agony of watching Park Top somehow getting beaten in the Eclipse Stakes, the Duke of Devonshire returns to Sandown Park today in search of belated compensation.

horse but in this company he lacks a turn of foot, although we think that perhaps the extra two furlongs might help," the Duke added.

Indeed, it may prove vital in what appears to be only an average Eclipse, without a

Richard Evans

Nap: DUCK ROW (4.05 Sandown Park) Next best: Easycall (3.20 Sandown Park)

Thunderer was in good form with four winners at Warwick yesterday, including Rock Scene (16-1).

domestic group one winner in the field, Daylami, one of three Godolphin-owned runners to challenge for this prize, is the warm favourite judged on his unlucky-in-running

As a five-year-old mare, Park Top won the Coronation Cup, the Hardwicke Stakes, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and finished second to Levmons in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp. "She was a marvellous horse who enjoyed great triumphs — and bad luck — so we experienced the whole gamut of racing, the good and the bad."

"Geoff [Lewis] is such a sweet man and a week after the Eclipse he told me all he wanted as he came in after that race was for the earth to swallow him up. But that Sandown bend is very tricky." While Park Top was sent off a 5-4 on favourite for the Eclipse, Duck Row will be one of the outsiders in a seven-strong field for this afternoon's Coral-sponsored group one contest. "Quite honestly, we are running for the place money, like we did with some success in the St James's Palace Stakes. He's a decent



Sanders: instructions

making as he lacked the necessary speed at a critical time. With the ground drying out, who is to say he will fare significantly better on this track with its tight bend which can often lead to traffic problems? Inevitably, trained by Sir Michael Stoute, looked an improved performer when winning the Brigadier Gerard Stakes on easy ground over this course and distance before finishing last but one behind Faithful Son at Ascot. Even allowing for that disappointing recent run, he must record a career-best effort to win here. Poteen, whose future lies in the United States, is far from certain to see out this trip, while Central Park, the winner of the Italian Derby, steps back in distance and should be keen to guarantee a truly run race.

Although Duck Row is yet to win this season, he has posted two performances in group one races which entitle him to go very close. After an interrupted preparation, the Diesel colt did well to finish sixth, beaten just over four lengths, to King Of Kings in the 2,000 Guineas. He was not disgraced behind Diktat, the subsequent Jersey Stakes winner, over an inadequate seven furlongs on unsuitably fast ground at Leicester before recording a career-best effort when third to Dr Fong and Desert Prince in the St James's Palace Stakes.

The time and form performance of that Royal Ascot run, adjusted to the weights of the race today, give Duck Row a chance better than his odds would imply. With further improvement likely to flow from a first attempt at this trip, the Duke can prepare to put out the bunting at Chatsworth.



Duck Row attempts to succeed where Park Top failed at Sandown Park today

Brave Reward deserves first win of season

SANDOWN PARK CHANNEL 4



2.45: Brave Reward is without a win this season but has progressed with every run and is well treated judged on his strong-finishing seventh to Plan-B in the Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot, the form of which is working out particularly well. Previously a good third to Ho Leng over a furlong shorter at York (holds Raise A King), the Lear Fan colt should appreciate today's stiff finish and is well drawn. Gulf Shaadi was second home on the far side in the Royal Hunt Cup but is best over a straight mile and For Your Eyes Only, a course and distance winner, and Brave Kris are bigger dangers.

3.20: Easycall has performed creditably in group company and, after a pair of sound efforts this term, he can take advantage of a drop in class. Beaten only a length in the Palace House Stakes before finishing sixth to Bolshoi in the King's Stand Stakes, he should appreciate the sounder surface, and he hails from an in-form yard. Tadeo led for a long way in the Wokingham and should appreciate the return to a stiff five furlongs although he is drawn on the outside.

4.40: After a slow start to the season, Gay Kelleway's string has struck form and Galapago looked to be on his way back when finishing fifth to San Sebastian in the Ascot Stakes. Set plenty to do, he finished strongly and is on a winning mark. Brides Pride found Sea Freedom a neck too strong at Chesham on Tuesday and will struggle in this more competitive race. Life Of Riley, a good second to Tarniet at Goodwood, is the main danger.

HAYDOCK PARK CHANNEL 4

3.05: Riding arrangements suggest Silver Rhapsody to be the pick of the Cecil pair, and the drying ground may help to demonstrate her superiority — but she is not going to offer much value stepped up to this new trip. Catchascatchcan, a seven-length winner when in need of the experience in the mud at Kempton, has done well since, but the similarly unexposed Altwaeleah might beat them both, judging from the leisure with which she disposed of her rivals when stepped up to this distance at York last time. Rambling Rose basically seems to lack pace, albeit that she posted a good effort in the Ribblesdale. Leggera will like the track.

3.35: Bay Of Islands has not had a great deal of racing — and his impressive win at Doncaster represented improvement stepped up to this trip for the first time. More obviously progressive is Jazzim, the only three-year-old, who got stuck in the mud at Royal Ascot. Drying conditions might help him resume his improvement here, as he had previously put up a taking performance to make all on fast ground at Newbury. Fantail continues his improvement, but it is hard to know if the fires still burn in Perfect Paradigm, Tarniet at Goodwood, is the main danger.

RICHARD EVANS CHRIS MCGRATH

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER 2.15 Albjar 4.05 Central Park 2.45 RAISE A KING (nap) 4.40 Life Of Riley 3.20 Lamarita 5.15 Mungo Park 5.45 Warning Reef

Timekeeper's top rating: 5.15 MUNGO PARK. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.15 Albjar. GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.15 EBF PADDOCK MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,290; 1m 16yd) (14 runners)

FORM FOCUS: Brave Kris 2nd 4th of 8 to Lilli Claire in listed stakes at Ascot (1m, good to soft) with Another Fantasy (6th worse off) 15th Wilbur in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm).

3.20 PORCELANOSA SPRINT STAKES (Listed race: £13,940; 5f 6yd) (11 runners)

FORM FOCUS: Halmahera 7th 4th of 8 to Andrew in stakes (listed) at Newcastle (6f, soft) with Fire Dome (2nd better off) 6th Easycall 2nd 4th of 10 to Bolshoi in group 3 stakes at Ascot (5f, good to soft) with Bishops Court (4th worse off) 2nd 7th and Mounlight Escape (7th worse off) 10th 13th Rambling Rose 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm).

Table with columns: TRAINERS, Winc, Rns, %, JOCKEYS, Winners, Rides, %

4.05 CORAL-ECLIPSE STAKES (Group 1: £147,600; 1m 27yd) (7 runners)

401 (1) 1322-13 DAYLAMI (B.F.F.S.) (Godolphin) 5m Sandown 4-9-7 ... L. Dettori 117 402 (1) 2514-11 FAITHFUL SON (D.P.F.S.) (Godolphin) 5m Sandown 4-9-7 ... J. Field 112 403 (1) 291-110 INDIABLE 18 (D.S.) (B. de Rothschild) 5m Sandown 5-9-7 ... M. J. Warren 106 404 (1) 284-23 POTEM 18 (S.) (C. Tabor) 4m 4-9-1 ... W.R. Swinburn 104 405 (1) 141-338 TAPPAH 18 (D.S.) (Cassidy) 5m Sandown 3-8-10 ... P. Egan 102 406 (1) 118-214 COTTEWATER PARK 15 (B.F.F.S.) (Godolphin) 5m Sandown 3-8-10 ... D. O'Donoghue 118 407 (1) 16-633 DUCK ROW 18 (S.) (Duke of Devonshire) 5m Sandown 3-8-10 ... S. Sanders 128

4.40 VICTORIA AMATEUR TURF CLUB HANDICAP (25-32m 27yd) (12 runners)

FORM FOCUS: Subtle Influence 2nd 5th of 20 to Dylan in handicap at Newcastle (2m 19yd, soft) with Lilli Claire 2nd 2nd of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm).

5.15 LINCOLN CIGARS HANDICAP (€5,680; 5f) (13 runners)

FORM FOCUS: Subtle Influence 2nd 5th of 20 to Dylan in handicap at Newcastle (2m 19yd, soft) with Lilli Claire 2nd 2nd of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm). Almond Road 2nd 4th of 10 to Protea in 2yo stakes (10f) at Chester (1m 20yd, good to firm).

5.45 SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION HANDICAP (€3,870; 1m 31yd) (10 runners)

Table with columns: Winc, Rns, %, JOCKEYS, Winners, Rides, %

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER 2.35 The Downtown Fox 4.10 Scored 3.05 Rambling Rose 4.45 Lady Blossom 3.35 Jazzim 5.20 Grand Musica

2.35 EATONS COCK O'THE NORTH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,740; 6f) (11 runners)

3.05 PAYNE AND GUNTER LANCASHIRE OAKS (Group III: £19,120; 1m 3f 200yd) (8 runners)

3.35 LETHBY & CHRISTOPHER OLD NEWTON CUP (Handicap: £34,200; 1m 3f 200yd) (8 runners)

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GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND

103 (12) 0-0482 GOOD TIMES 74 (D.P.F.S.) (Mrs D. Robinson) 6f 9-10-4 ... W. Ryan 88

4.10 LETTY'S JULY TROPHY STAKES (Listed race: 3-Y-O: £11,048; 1m 3f 200yd) (8 runners)

4.45 EUREST FILLES STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,647; 6f) (8 runners)

5.20 G-MEX SEMINAR CENTRE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (€2,745; 1m 2f 120yd) (8 runners)

Table with columns: TRAINERS, Winc, Rns, %, JOCKEYS, Winners, Rides, %

MONDAY: Bath (first race, 2.00), Musselburgh (12.15), Ripon (7.00), Windsor (6.35), Newbury (6.45). TUESDAY: Newmarket (C4, 2.05), Pontefract (2.20). WEDNESDAY: Newmarket (C4, 2.05), Ffosfechan (2.20), Kempton Park (8.35), Worcester (8.50). THURSDAY: Newmarket (C4, 2.05), Lingfield Park (2.25), Southwell (2.15). FRIDAY: Lingfield Park (2.00), York (C4, 2.25), Wolverhampton (2.20). SATURDAY: Chester (2.10), Lingfield Park (2.20), Salisbury (2.15), York (C4, 2.00), Warwick (6.45), Southwell (6.35), Sedgefield (6.55). SUNDAY: Haydock Park (2.10), Newbury (8.50), Stratford (2.20). Flat meetings in bold.

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to test

'At each stop, you must face the vets. If the horse fails, you have lost'

W



One of the museum's few home-grown ideas, the Latvian REAF paratrooper's car was an abysmal failure that borrowed styling cues from Austin

# Last resting place of the Soviets' stolen supercars

Moored in a bleak Soviet-era housing estate on the outskirts of the capital of Latvia, the Riga Motor Museum documents one of the strangest contradictions of the Cold War. While the Soviet Union slowly churned out primitive vehicles for the workers, its leaders were wallowing in their taste for automotive excess.

As the museum's exhibits reveal, American and British luxury cars were the pinnacle of chic as far as the Communist elite were concerned. Lenin's favourite car was a Rolls-Royce, and the Soviet Government even bought a small number of Lincoln V12s during the 1930s. Stalin gave one of them to Maxim Gorky in recognition of his artistic support for the party line.

Because Gorky's family had to hide the Lincoln when politics changed, to avoid a trip to Siberia, the car is still in excellent condition. Other highlights of the display are Stalin's funeral eight-ton 1949 ZIS limousine — basically a 1942 Packard with a plastic Soviet flag on its bonnet; and the 1966 Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith owned, cherished, and personally wrecked by Leonid Brezhnev.

The ZIS and the Rolls contain weirdly lit waxworks of their late owners. There is the 1973 Lincoln Town Car that Nixon gave Brezhnev — he knew the Soviet leader's weakness for luxury marques — and Molotov's unique aluminium 1939 Rolls-Royce pillarless coupé, which was captured from the Germans.

The museum's explanatory notes reveal the Communist leaders' double-think towards American and British automotive styling. Museum manager Andrejs Belinskis sniffs dismissively about Soviet car designers: "They were spies." The jewel of the collection is a gigantic grey 1939 Ainto Union supercar, boasting a 520bhp V16 engine and a top speed of 212mph. "The Russians had taken it apart in a ZIL factory to borrow some of the German technology," says Mr Belinskis. It was going to be scrapped in 1976, but a ZIL official telephoned the president of the Latvian Antique Au-

Leslie Sheldon visits Latvia's lonely motor museum, a witness to the Communist leaders' love of flash American cars, and their willingness to pinch ideas



Ghoulish: waxwork of Stalin enjoying a limousine ride

tomobile Club, the first classic club in the Soviet Union, and gave him two days to rescue it. A 1994 restoration by a British firm assured its survival. The stubborn determination of Latvian classic car enthusiasts is impressive. As Simon Johnstone, a UK adviser to the EU based in Riga remarks: "You've got to respect car buffs who kept alive what might have been seen as an eccentric, indulgent and even suspect activity — in a remote corner of the Soviet empire in the midst of the Cold War to boot. It took guts, pure and simple."

Soviet admiration for foreign styling is evident in more mundane vehicles as well, such as the 1949 Moscovitch 400 and the bulbous 1958 ZIL, whose grille was modelled on the postwar Cadillac. The 1963 Volga and the humble 1958 Moscovitch 410 both display laughably obvious early 1950s Studebaker and Ford lines.

The Volga is the size of a medium-sized 1950s American car, but powered by a definitely non-optional 70bhp, four-cylinder engine; a comatose power plant by US standards of the day. Mr Belinskis explains: "Stalin told the people

ZIL 111G, the first Soviet car with four headlights. They are mounted in an inevitably Cadillac-inspired grille. The ZIL also boasts a panoramic, tinted windscreen, two-speed pushbutton transmission and a 6-litre, 200bhp V8.

The Riga Experimental Automobile Factory also got in on the borrowing act with its chrome-clad Model 50, intended as an answer to the VW Beetle but for use by paratroopers rather than domestic consumers. One of the two attractively styled 1950 prototypes — they resemble a 1949 American Ford at the front and a 1950 Austin at the rear — was recently rescued from a kindergarten.

Plans for a rear-mounted, two-cylinder engine capable of 55mph did not preclude a long bonnet. And one had to take the body off to repair the engine. By the time the car failed its technical trials in Moscow, breaking down several times on the way from Riga, a million roubles had been spent.

This is not surprising, given that the radiator was at the front, connected to the rear engine by pipes passing through the chassis, thus ensuring that the engine never got to an efficient operating temperature. That the car had no shock absorbers, a luxury not felt appropriate for soldiers, probably did not help either.

The sight of hundreds of midget REAF cabriolets drifting down on parachutes into Europe as a prelude to invasion was an image that perhaps even the most stern American proponents of the Red Scare might have found difficult to take seriously.

Museum director Edvins Liepins attempts to preserve this informative, unusual and occasionally amusing collection, which is constantly under threat. "Only 10 per cent of our income is from ticket sales," he says. "The rest comes from companies renting the cars out for weddings and films, and leasing space in the museum building."

The zenith of the Soviet love affair with chrome — guarded by a startling wax figure of Khrushchev — was the 1965



Khrushchev's 1965 Zil 111G cribbed shamelessly from Cadillac and was a far cry from the normal comradely runabout

go

# America set for an ever-stickier jam

In Los Angeles, where gridlock is a way of life, the silver bullets that were supposed to end it all are known as Carpool Lanes, writes Giles Whittell. This is how you use them: begin by speed-reading the instructions on small signs on each carriageway.

On pain of a heavy fine, note the minimum number of passengers per car, which varies and could be as many as three. Also note the hours of the day the lane is operative. If the time is right and your body-count sufficient, wait for a break in the thick white and yellow lines and swerve left.

Great. But in Carpool Lanes, you go as slow as the slowest car in front of you. There's the problem. Having learnt this, swerve right at the first opportunity and rejoin the real world.

Carpool Lanes came about as a last-ditch effort to unclog LA's freeways by putting more people in fewer cars; on an average day the city boasts an anti-social 1.19 people per car.

The trouble began, according to local lore, the moment the local tyre conglomerate threw its weight behind a plan to rip up the region's vast trolleybus network in the 1950s.

The extra space made possible 700 miles of ten-lane highways, but even then their builders warned of chronic traffic jams within 30 years.

In that time all attempts to coax Angelinos out of their cars and back on to public transport have failed miserably. Endemic snobbishness has traditionally equated mass transit with riff-raff and lower parking revenues.

The short length of subway the city has managed to build has caused much of Hollywood Boulevard to cave in, leaving the Metropolitan Transit Authority \$7 billion in debt. And of course, Angelinos are car junkies.

So the city built more roads. Once-humble "surface" streets became eight-lane arteries. Everyone built Carpool Lanes, but nothing worked. The only hours you can be sure of a

## PRESCOTT'S PROBLEMS

INSIDERS claim that deputy prime minister John Prescott, who has overall control for transport policy, is being made to look increasingly foolish as his "integrated transport policy" in the forthcoming White Paper, with its curb-the-car ideas, is being diluted by spin-doctors, focus groups and cabinet colleagues, writes Joe Warwick.

The paper, delayed twice now, is again behind schedule. Originally due in May, then June, it is hoped to be presented to Parliament at the end of this month.



Prescott's new policies look stuck

The delay is due to a government spending round which was always going to be a trial — Gordon Brown is proving reluctant to allow all new taxes to go directly into public transport — and the most innovative parts of Prescott's proposals may be compromised in an attempt by No 10 to avoid appearing "anti-car".

Proposals for charges on road-use, and also car parking at out-of-town supermarkets and in-town offices, could be scrapped.

Car-friendly policies such as curbs on cowboy wheel

clampers, a motorists' charter guaranteeing standards of road maintenance by the Highways Agency, and a new regulatory body to reduce roadworks are now being touted instead.

clear drive in greater Los Angeles are between 1am and 5am, and congestion costs the state up to \$10 billion a year in unused time and energy.

Carpooling did have its moment. For a while, single drivers took to propping blow-up dummies in their passenger seats in the hope of fooling the Californian Highway Patrol. It was a good wheeze, but drivers started reporting imposters on their mobiles.

LA's true traffic nerds have known since the early 1990s that if its choking, maddening, staggeringly wasteful car congestion is to be eased, it will be with computers. The state transport authority already runs a Star Wars-style nerve centre deep under downtown.

It takes in data from 5,000 sensors and spews out round-the-clock traffic reports for radio stations, as well as grid-

lock warnings that flash up on freeway signs.

The next step is to put so many chips and sensors in each car that drivers can punch in their destination, accelerate into a computerised fast lane, and steam to work at 90mph with other cars less than 3ft in front and behind. Experts say this could so ease three times the current number of cars on the city's freeways, causing three times the current levels of pollution.

The mega-computer to run America's no-hands driving future is not finished yet. In the meantime, the car-makers already have a hugely popular solution to traffic jams: enjoy them. That is, buy a giant V8 Chevy Suburban or Ford Expedition, instal two phones, a fax, four TV/VCRs, fill up for roughly \$1 a gallon, and just relax.



Congestion, American style: but despite attempted remedies, they face jams tomorrow

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MORE VAUXHALL TEAM CHECK NUMBERS WILL BE BROADCAST ON TUESDAY





Should driving around in wellingtons stuffed with your favourite tinned food be considered a crime? And what about Wallace and Gromit slippers?

# Never fill a boot with baked beans

**T**hey have it right in Yorkshire: there's nowt so queer as folk. Which is just as well, because life would be immeasurably more dull without the foibles of human nature, albeit that we are less inclined to take this charitable view about David Beckham than about a man driving a car with his boots full of baked beans.

## DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

What was that? On Tuesday *The Times* reported that in the course of a routine check by police in Colchester, Essex, the driver of a car had been found to be wearing wellington boots "filled with baked beans in tomato sauce". The officers warned the driver that he ought to choose "more suitable footwear" though it was unclear whether they objected to the boots or their contents.

It was while I paused to check my watch that I glanced downwards and found Wallace and Gromit grinning up at me. This pair of animated cartoon characters adorns each of my slippers. This raised important questions. Why do I wear slippers at all? What subconscious forces are at work when a missed penalty by



David Batty can make me forget to take them off before leaving the house? Why, even if I need slippers, did I allow my youngest daughter to foist upon me a pair engraved with a man and a dog who normally present themselves via video and are made of plasticine? Above all, would the police consider a pair of slippers to be "suitable footwear"? Are slippers too soft

for the job in the same way that wellingtons might be considered too large, risking a foot hitting more than one pedal at a time? How about the skater who rushes from the rink straight to the car: are skates suitable footwear and are rollerskates more or less suitable than ice skates? And then there is the question of high heels. I do not wear high

heels because I cannot find a pair with Wallace and Gromit on them but those who do wear them, mostly women, tell me that high heels are uncomfortable for driving, which is why a lot of women keep a pair of flat shoes in the car. As for the police, it is interesting to speculate whether they would consider high heels worn by a man "unsuitable", thus passing more of a comment on his personal tastes than on his driving.

The Highway Code, disgracefully, offers no advice on these matters, except indirectly. Section 32 says that "driving can make you sleepy", meaning that a long stint on the motorway has much the same effect as watching Belgium play football. But I would imagine that a boot filled with cold baked beans might well help one stay awake, so to that extent Colchester Man deserves a merit award from his local road-safety committee. No, I don't think he will get one, either. More likely, he will be urgently considering other ways to make baked beans into a cold drink, unless of course I have got the whole thing back to front. It may well be that immersion in baked beans is a tried and trusted rubber restorative, used by uncounted generations of Essex folk. I shall stay away from Colchester. I cannot risk the consequences of a police officer standing up in court to announce: "Upon examining the footwear of the respective drivers, it was found that one had been wearing boots filled with baked beans and the other had a pair of Wallace and Gromit slippers on his feet." The accused were sentenced to three months at Freeman, Hardy and Willis. Next case.

# Britain's new black cab: the one that taxi drivers are hailing

**I**t's not until you drive a taxi for ten hours every day in the middle of London that you appreciate the true value of a tight turning circle. Terry Fryer, of London Taxis International, spoke from the back seat of a new TX-1 cab as I drove him in circles in the factory car park.

## Bill Thomas gets his head turned in the tight-corners success story that is taking over from the traditional Hackney workhorse

Not only does it save passengers time and money by making U-turns easier, it allows you to pull out from the kerb when a bus is a couple of feet in front of your nose. Terry puffed contentedly on a cigarette as we embarked on yet another circular journey. I was amazed by the TX-1's manoeuvrability, and could not resist a few more laps, despite the onset of dizziness.

One of the most important goals was to retain the classic black-cab signature, and build on our strengths. Getting the shape right was only a small part of the battle. The TX-1 complies with the most rigorous safety and accessibility standards in the world. Not only must it meet the needs of London's Public Carriage Office, which sets guidelines for the vehicle's carrying capacity, exterior dimensions and turning circle, it must also comply with the new Disability Discrimination Act.

The most critical verdict is ultimately delivered by the harshest judges of all: the drivers. And here the TX-1 scores well - it has been a revelation to cabbies brought up on the old machine. Visibility is greatly improved, with the windscreen now 48 per cent larger. This has put an end to the strange forward-leaning driving position adopted by drivers striving to improve their view over the bonnet.



Ab-fab cab: Joanna Lurnley models the taxi that might put an end to grim mutterings from the driving seat amid heavy traffic

Cabbies have never had it so good. The standard Bronze model comes with electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, a full set of instruments and a multi-adjustable bucket seat. The posher Silver model adds air conditioning, a CD-compatible radio-cassette player and even a walnut-style instrument binnacle.

No cabbie has an excuse to be miserable again, though one suspects that the sarcasm level won't drop too much. Out on the road, the TX-1

drives smoothly and easily. You sit high and proud, in a "command" driving position, as Fryer puts it. When battle is joined, no slumping is allowed. Cutting through the lunchtime Coventry traffic, I felt almost invincible, with the big 2.7-litre Nissan diesel engine providing instant torque low in the rev range, and the gearbox snicking easily between the ratios.

Our customers have to work in these machines for hour after hour, every day," he said through the standard intercom system, which includes a hearing-aid loop. "So there's more space, it's warmer and more comfortable." But the most impressive feature is the steering. The feel through the chunky wheel is perfect, with ideal weighting and an immediate response. I flung the TX-1 vigorously through a roundabout and watched Terry's head disappear sideways out of the rear view mirror as the tyres roared in protest. Though the TX-1 leans over more than most cars, it is just as chuckable and more fun than most. I never thought a cab would be so simple to drive.



Steve Waddilove: "Going to the Italian Grand Prix will be great."

## Steve is company driver of the year

**MUD** WAS thicker than water at Silverstone last weekend when drivers braved an off-road test that would make a hippo shudder. writes Eve-Anne Prentice. After plunging through thigh-high water churned to the consistency of wet cement, they coaxed four-wheel-drive cars round a tortuous hump-backed before clambering up a steep hill to face the "suicide drop" on the other side.

To strain nerves even more, all the motorists were being judged by former police driving instructors, for they were the finalists in our competition to find the country's best company car driver. In the end it was Steve Waddilove, 34, who triumphed over wind, rain and stiff competition to become the *Times* Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year. As well as the title, he wins a VIP trip for two to the Italian Grand Prix in September. "I think it was a very good competition," said Waddilove, who drives 45,000 miles a year for Mer-

## Rolls gets a bad brake

**A** £2 pair of pliers to free the disintegrating parking-brake release on "my" £155,000 Silver Seraph was essential equipment during a bizarre weekend with the ultimate example of British automotive craft. writes Vaughan Freeman. It had all started so well. The gorgeous deep blue Seraph looked stunning between the Mondeo taxis and Volvo estates on our street. Sets of fingerprints soon decorated the car's sparkling chrome as neighbours' children clamoured for a glimpse inside. On the first trip, to the swimming pool, the car turned heads all the way as pedestrians and fellow road-users stopped to stare at the four-wheeled result of a £200 million investment by former Rolls-Royce owners Vickers.



How it should be: top, the elegant Silver Seraph; but oh dear, above

BMW V12 5.4 litre unit more usually seen in the BMW 750i, matched to a BMW five-speed automatic gearbox rather than the Spirit's four-speed General Motors transmission. If all has changed under the metal, including redesigned suspension all-round and a far stiffer body, then inside, the classic Rolls-Royce ambience remains. Although the Seraph is longer, there is actually an inch less legroom for the all-important rear-seat passen-

gers and, oh dear, two of the hand-crafted wooden panels slide out to reveal not gin decanters but folding, plastic cup-holders that would be more at home in a pick-up truck. If the cup-holders are a let-down, so too are the rear lights, which one neighbour thought "ugly", and those white-walled tyres. The Seraph is a huge improvement over the wallowing efforts of earlier Rolls-Royce motor cars. It feels faster and more responsive, the cornering and braking are much improved and the brakes, even coping with 2.4 tonnes of car, are excellent. A car of this size, length and width is not designed to be sporty, but the Seraph's V12 engine enables it to get around deceptively quickly, and makes it far more like its sportier cousin in the Bentley to drive. Rolls-Royce is now owned, of course, by VW. Handbrakes just do not come apart in a VW. Perhaps the German manufacturer can ensure that in future the same is true for a Rolls-Royce. A spokesman for Rolls-Royce supplier HR Owen said he was "naturally very sorry" to hear of the brake handle's demise, adding: "Customers have been delighted with the Seraph. We have had no complaints like this."

30p THE TIMES

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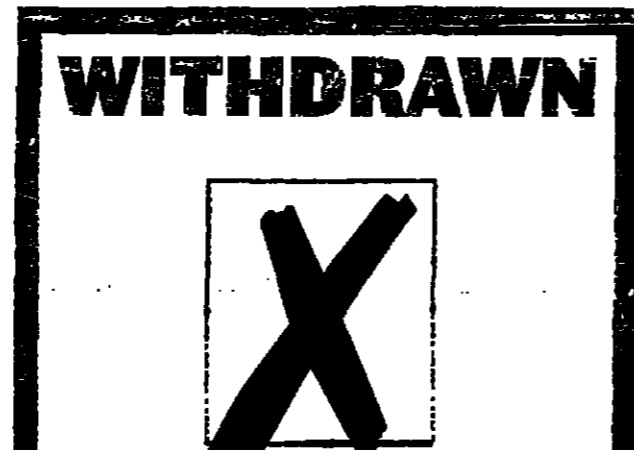
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SHOPPING LIST 52

A Sainsbury's manager voices mis-selling fears



WEEKEND MONEY

SAFETY-FIRST 53

The best insurance deals for those going backpacking



Clare Stewart says this year it is chic to have a grubby shirt replacing the fine art in your sitting room

Keep the memory lingering on

If you can bear to think about the subject, football mania, which has swamped the national consciousness in the past few weeks, has moved from the terraces into the auction house salerooms...

The World Cup has sharpened interest in the market for football memorabilia, but says Mike Ashton, sports specialist at Phillips, the auctioneer, the growth in the market has been under way for the past two or three years...

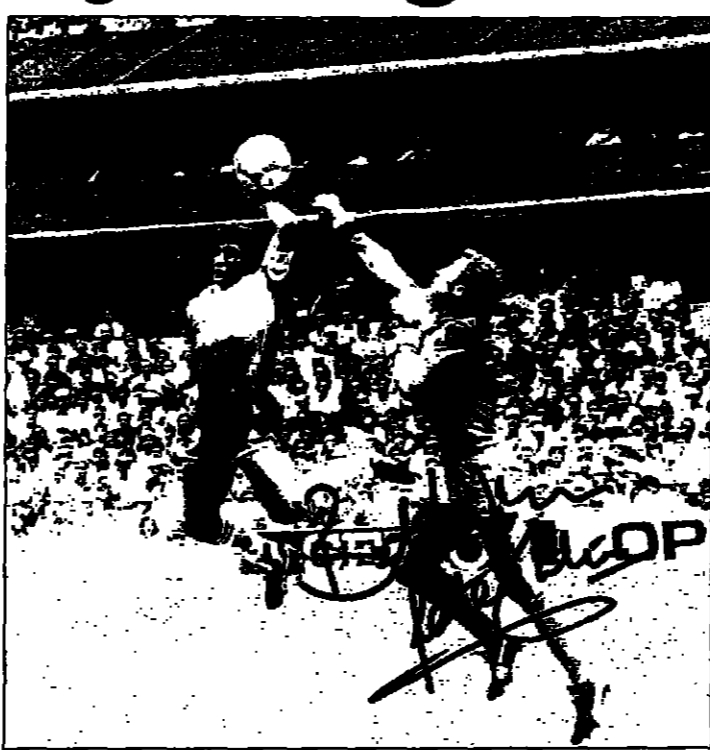
A recent sale held at Christie's in Glasgow saw some fancy prices achieved for the range of memorabilia offered, some well over estimates. Although a 1966 World Cup winner's medal presented to George Cohen, which was estimated to fetch £60,000-£80,000 failed to reach its reserve price...

Sotheby's has also been gripped by football fever and next week on July 9, it is holding its first football sale, making room among its Old Master paintings and 18th-century furniture...

Highlights include the England No 21 shirt worn by Roger Hunt in the World Cup Final in 1966, the first of the 1966 team shirts to be offered at auction. It has an estimate of £30,000-£50,000. Hunt swapped his shirt with Wolfgang Weber after the match, and Weber's shirt - unwashed presumably for greater authenticity - is also being offered in the sale...



Lots for all pockets: Hunt's 1966 World Cup jersey (£30,000-£50,000); a Shilton-signed "Hand of God" print (£200-£300) and a pub mirror £5,000-£8,000



The higher estimate for the England shirt reflects its rarity, being one of only 11 winning outfits.

Other notable items include the boots worn by Kevin Keegan in his farewell appearance as a professional player in 1984, which have an estimate of £1,500-£2,000, while the ball used in Pele's final international match in 1971 is estimated to fetch £3,000-£5,000.

There are, however, many more

lots with lower estimates, starting below £100. Match programmes, autographed items, postcards, commemorative items, awards - the range is extensive, and includes items dating back to the late 19th century.

When it comes to collecting current memorabilia, the vast output of World Cup souvenirs is unlikely to appreciate but official items such as shirts worn by win-

ning team members and winners' medals will be the items that will hold most interest for collectors in the future.

As with other areas of collecting, the provenance, that is to say information on the item's origin, is very important to support claims that the boots or shirt, for example, were worn by a particular player in a key match.

The desirability of memorabilia,

especially modern items, may fluctuate according to the fortunes of teams and players. While demand for items related to a particular player may be sought after one season, if they transfer to another team, collectors may lose interest. "The best memorabilia is at international level, where a player will stay a hero if he has played well in a particular game," says Graham Budd, Sotheby's football specialist.

Mr Budd advises novice collectors to try to spot future stars and start collecting material relating to them early on when it is easy to obtain and inexpensive. "Look for youth players who may be on the way up," he adds.

Material connected to professional football clubs that no longer exist such as Bradford Park Avenue is deemed collectable. In the case of autographs, Mr Budd says: "What the signature is on is often more important than the autograph." So for example, a piece of paper signed by a soccer star is much less interesting than a signed shirt or football.

Bryan Horsnell, a collector and memorabilia expert, says the growing interest of auction houses in the market means that they now offer the best range of items for enthusiasts. But the downside of having more specialist sales is that demand chases prices higher.

Mr Horsnell, who also acts as a consultant for other buyers and collectors, says he began collecting seriously in 1966. He recalls buying a 1903 FA Cup winner's medal that had narrowly missed being melted down because it was not deemed then to be of particular interest. "It is only in the last ten years that auction houses have become interested in football memorabilia," he says. Before that, he says, they rather looked down their noses at such items.

Match programmes are a good place for novice collectors to start, and can be found relatively cheaply. While they are sold at auction house sales, there are opportunities to buy at specialist fairs held around the country. Pre-war programmes are particularly collectable, says Sotheby's, when they were relatively simple printed sheets, and more likely to have been thrown away after the match.

CONTACTS

Bonhams: 0171-393 3900  
Sotheby's: 0171-293 5000  
Christie's: 0141-332 8134  
Phillips: 01222-396 453

From Big Daddy to clubs and guns

Demand for football memorabilia is only one area of the market, and is matched by the interest in traditional sports such as golf and cricket.

There are differences between sports in the sort of material that fetches the highest price. Mike Ashton of Phillips said: "In golf, the high money is paid for the tools of the trade, such as balls and clubs, whereas an old football for example does not have a great deal of value unless it is from an important game."

There are regular sales of sporting memorabilia during the year held by the auction houses, and there are the specialist dealers who advertise in sporting magazines. Forthcoming sales include one of golf, cricket, boxing and other sports memorabilia at Sotheby's in London on July 10.

Items range from boxing belts to outfits worn by the wrestler Big Daddy, and from rare copies of John Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack to unusual and antique golf balls.

On August 5, Bonhams in London has its Fine Fishing Tackle and Works of Art sale, which includes a carved and painted wooden salmon from the shop of the noted rod and reel maker J S Sharpe & Sons, estimated at £3,500-£4,500.

Christie's South Kensington has sporting prints in a sale on August 6 while Sotheby's has a Scottish and Sporting Pictures sale on September 2 at Gleneagles Hotel. On September 18, Bonhams in London has its Sporting Pictures sale to include guns and other sports items.

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# Oeics 'would bring lower charges' at Standard Life

Standard Life, the mutual insurance company, plans to reduce charges on its unit trusts if investors vote for a conversion to a new type of collective investment at the end of this month.

Proposals to restructure its £1 billion range of nine unit trusts into an open-ended investment company (Oeic), were posted to 125,000 investors this week. The change would dramatically reduce initial charges, halving the cost on some funds. Last month Fidelity investors voted to switch their trusts into an Oeic.

Alan Burton, chief executive of Standard Life fund managers, said: "The charges are a reflection of the cost effectiveness of managing the business as an Oeic."

Initial costs of investing in Standard Life's Gilt Fund and UK Equity High Income Fund will halve to 3 per cent and go down from 6 per cent to 3.5 per cent for the UK Equity Growth Fund. Annual fees will go down from 1.5 per cent to 0.95 for the Growth and Income fund and the UK Gilt Fund.

The move comes as M&G, the largest unit trust manager, announces its plans to raise fees in late September. M&G, which has no immediate plans to convert its funds into Oeics, will raise its annual charges from 0.75 per cent to 1 per cent on three of its mainstream trusts. M&G said that despite the rise in fees, its charges are still some of the most competitive.

Oeics have been billed as a hybrid of unit and investment trusts which can be marketed throughout Europe. As with investment trusts, Oeics have a company rather than trust format but have kept the attractions of the open-ended structure of unit trusts.

Oeics also offer the benefit of single pricing. Unlike unit trust or investment trusts,

where there is a gap between buying and selling prices known as the bid offer spread, Oeics will trade at a single price equivalent to the net asset value. Charges will be separated and the new Oeic structure, where funds are grouped under one umbrella, will make it simpler and cheaper for investors to switch between funds.

However, although some fund managers say cheaper running costs will mean lower charges, the potential benefits to investors has been questioned by many in the industry. Critics believe the benefits to investors have been overstated especially as single pricing will become available to unit trusts in the near future. M&G believes that Standard Life could have lowered its charges regardless of the fund structure.

The real winners, it is argued, are the investment companies themselves as Oeics safeguard UK fund managers' competitiveness in Europe. Without Oeics, European Union laws would make it difficult for UK investment houses to gain a foothold in Europe while continental fund managers could sell over here.

Jason Hollands, of BEST Investment, said: "Changing the structure is about making the products more marketable in Europe. There has been a lot of huff and puff about investor benefits. We are broadly in favour of the changes but the benefits for investors have been overdone."

David Thomson, Investment Services Manager at Aitchinson & Colegrave, the IFA, said that while Oeics should be cheaper to administer, it remains to be seen whether cost savings will be passed on to investors.

SUSAN EMMETT

# Check on free-standing sales

Marianne Curphey with evidence of more pensions mis-selling

Fears that the insurance industry is on the verge of another mis-selling scandal have prompted City regulators to begin monitoring the sale of pension top-up contracts.

The move comes after months of pressure from consumer groups and pension fund trustees who have voiced concerns over the way these products are sold.

Further evidence of the scale of the mis-selling emerged this week with the publication of a survey by Bacon & Woodrow and Pensions Week magazine claiming that regulatory guidelines on the sale of top-up contracts were being widely flouted by providers and advisers.

Researchers claimed to have uncovered evidence that sales representatives lied in order to sell policies and in some cases sold products to themselves to get commission.

Regulators said they would widen the scope of their inquiry if it became clear that mis-selling was taking place. The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) said an announcement was likely in the autumn.

Insurance salesmen can make huge commissions on selling free-standing additional voluntary contributions (free-standing AVCs) which supplement ordinary pension contributions. The contracts are offered by life insurers as an alternative to cheaper schemes available to company employees known as additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

The PIA confirmed to The Times a fortnight ago that it had started to monitor the sale of free-standing schemes. It is concerned that employees who have the opportunity to take up cut-price schemes at work are putting their money into more expensive free-standing ones.

The PIA said: "We will look at the picture emerging. If it looks

as though there is a big problem we might broaden the scale or scope of the investigation and take on more work. We are also reissuing guidelines to advisers to clarify that they need to send customers away to look at the merits of their own company AVC scheme before they go ahead and sell a free-standing one." The cost of the investigation will be met by some of the £29 million that financial services companies pay in fees each year.

Pension top-ups tend to be used by people who are planning early retirement, or who have built up relatively small pension funds and want to supplement them.

Employees can contribute up to 15 per cent of their pay to an AVC or free-standing scheme, less any contribution they are already making to their main scheme. Top-up contracts enjoy the same tax treatment as ordinary pension contributions: you receive tax relief on the money paid in at your highest tax rate.

While AVCs come out of the pay packet and enjoy immediate tax relief, free-standing ones require holders to prove payments have been made and claim tax relief at the end of the financial year.

Some occupational scheme managers and pension fund trustees have expressed concern that if the practice of selling free-standing schemes to employees is not stopped the industry will be faced with a new mis-selling scandal, at the same time that it is embroiled in sorting out the Eighties mis-selling of personal pensions.

The survey by Bacon & Woodrow and Pensions Week studied 116 occupational schemes and was told of 20 separate instances where compensation had been paid due to the underperformance of a free-standing scheme compared



Geoff Pearson, of Sainsbury, asked why so many staff took up free-standing contracts

with the company arrangement. The survey said: "Compensation took the form of a transfer from the free-standing scheme uplifted to the amount that would have accrued under the in-scheme arrangement had the member taken that option in the first place."

Pressure to investigate the issue has come from trustees of occupational schemes and one of the most outspoken has been Geoff Pearson, pensions manager for J Sainsbury, the supermarket giant.

He said: "A lot of people in Sainsbury had been taking up free-standing contracts and I

began to question why this was happening. We do not market our own AVCs as frequently as salesmen for free-standing schemes do. Nor do we have a direct sales force to sell the product. However, we have negotiated very low charges which people would not be able to get if they went to an insurance company on an individual basis."

"I came to the conclusion that our staff were buying free-standing ones because they were subject to the sales pitch of the silver-tongued salesmen. The companies concerned are spread across the whole of

the industry, but the bigger insurers like Prudential and Allied Dunbar have sold proportionately more to our staff."

Prudential said: "We are taking our guidance from the PIA ombudsman and the Treasury who indicated that no systematic problem was apparent. There is no room for complacency and we are vetting all our sales."

Tony Reardon, pensions marketing director of Allied Dunbar, said comparing the two types of products was "comparing apples and pears". He emphasised the value of financial advice during the obliga-

tory fact-finding. "There is a significant difference because a free-standing scheme needs to be marketed by a provider and financial advice given on a regulated one-to-one basis. The in-house AVC is on a take-it-or-leave-it basis."

He said that people who were sold free-standing schemes might not otherwise have been persuaded to make extra provision for their retirement. "Most people are not highly motivated to do anything about top-up provision themselves. Our advisers will have told customers that they have the option of a free-standing scheme with Allied Dunbar or an in-house scheme. We give members of existing company schemes a booklet that talks about the generic differences between AVC and free-standing schemes."

Mr Reardon said: "When a member buys a free-standing scheme we write to the company scheme to let them know what has happened. If the pensions managers of the company scheme were so concerned then they could approach the member and ask why they had not bought the in-house AVC."

"Do pension fund managers really want their scheme members to contribute to in-house AVCs or is it the fact that members choose to invest elsewhere that is so galling?" Sainsbury's AVC scheme offers a deposit-based account administered by the Halifax for which there is no charge, and a with-profits fund run by Equitable Life which charges just 0.5 per cent management fee. Most free-standing products deduct an initial charge of 5 per cent.

Most people are not highly motivated to do anything about topping up themselves

## Revenue goes on the perks trail

Taxpayers are being urged to check the details of forms sent to the Inland Revenue by their employers outlining what perks they have received during the last tax year. Companies have until July 6 to submit the PIDs to the taxman for all employees who earn more than £8,500 a year and get additional benefits as part of their package.

The Revenue uses the information to calculate the extra tax a worker must pay on certain perks which are classed as benefits in kind, including company cars, private medical insurance, mobile phones and cheap loans or mortgages.

Although it is the responsi-

bility of employers to make sure the information supplied to the taxman is correct, errors often occur. According to Keith Pike, assistant director of Tax-Guard, a personal tax consultancy based in Peterborough, one of the most common mistakes involves calculating the benefit in kind of a company car, particularly where the user is paying towards its upkeep.

He said: "A common problem is missing off an employee's contribution towards the cost of providing a car, but there may also be other errors which could increase a person's tax liability for the company vehicle."

As a general rule an em-

ployee pays tax on 35 per cent of the new list price of a car, which means a £20,000 vehicle would involve a taxable benefit of £7,000 paid at 23 per cent for basic-rate taxpayers and 40 per cent for higher taxpayers.

However, the taxable benefit is reduced by a third if the employee does more than 2,500 business miles a year and by another third if the annual business mileage exceeds 18,000. An additional third is subtracted if the vehicle is more than four years old at the end of the tax year in which it has been assessed as a benefit in kind. But under Inland Revenue rules any contributions made by the employee to-

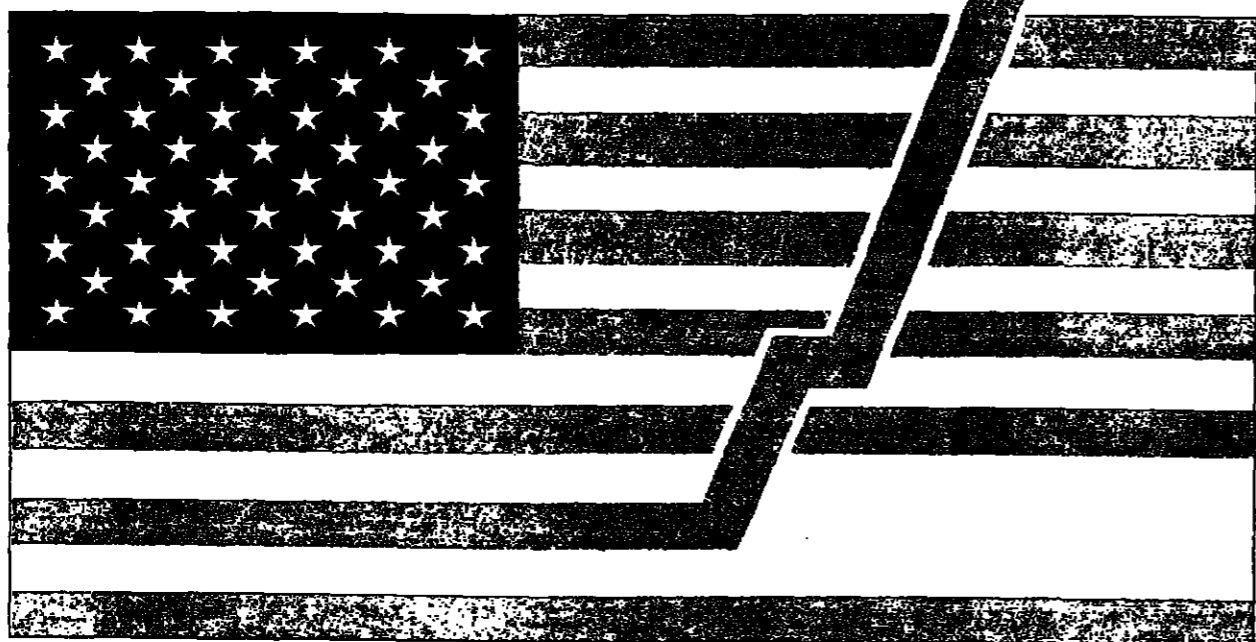
wards the cost of the vehicle can also be offset against tax.

Mr Pike says workers should check the details of their PID carefully and ask their employer to put right any errors. He said: "As a copy of the PID is sent to the Revenue direct, an employee who discovers any error on their form should ask their employer to reissue a correct version as soon as possible."

"Many people are just too busy to cope with these details and rely on their employer to get it right, but they could be faced with an unnecessary tax liability if they do not check the details are correct."

JOHN GIVENS

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THE TIMES  
 Marianne Curphey  
 The route to driving in...  
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# Globetrotters need a safety-first policy

## Marianne Curphey checks insurance for that holiday of a lifetime

They like to think of themselves as "travellers" not tourists; they doss down in cheap foreign guesthouses with rooms that cost as little as 50p a night; they pride themselves on their unkempt appearance and they worry their parents sick.

As university and college final examinations draw to a close, thousands of students are preparing to set off for the trip of a lifetime on a backpacking holiday. For many, it is last taste of adventure before settling down to jobs, mortgages and, ultimately, families. The most popular destinations are still those which featured on the hippy trail when, back in the 1970s, Tony Wheeler wrote the first *Lonely Planet* guide on how to travel across South-East Asia on a shoe-string budget. Nepal, India, Vietnam and China, Australia and New Zealand are favourites, and the numbers of twenty-somethings heading for South America is increasing rapidly.

While a sense of adventure is healthy, the Foreign Office counsels against students heading into danger zones in search of the ultimate travel trip. Its Travel Advice Unit advises against all travel to Jammu and Kashmir, northern India, where staying on a houseboat on Lake Kashmir was once a popular

backpacking activity. Nevertheless, local families who have seen their income decimated by the effects of the unrest still send their sons down to Delhi to try to persuade travellers that Kashmir is safe.

Eritrea, once an adventure destination for overland travellers, is also now out of bounds after its territorial dispute with the neighbouring Ethiopians. The Foreign Office also strongly advises travellers to avoid Afghanistan, Algeria, Bougainville Island (Papua New Guinea), the Chechen Republic, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, North West Cameroon, Somalia, Tajikistan and the western Sahara.

For travellers seeking further information, the FCO travel advice is on CeeFax page 470 onwards or at <http://www.fco.gov.uk> on the Internet.

The FCO strongly recommends that all travellers take out adequate comprehensive insurance. Although students and backpackers may not need much baggage and personal possessions cover, medical insurance is essential. Which?, the magazine of the Consumers' Association, suggests minimum travel insurance should include at least £250,000 for medical expenses in Europe and £1 million for the rest of the world. If you opt for baggage cover it should be a



Backpacking around the world has many attractions but without adequate insurance an exciting voyage can become a nightmare

minimum £1,500. Some policies limit the compensation you can claim for single items such as cameras, money or documents. It is also important to have some cover for personal accident, personal liability and legal expenses.

About half of all money paid on claims every year is for medical expenses, followed by baggage, cancellation, delay and hijacking. Of all claims made, a third are for lost baggage, so if you are

intending to travel light as a backpacker, you can save by opting out of baggage cover.

Columbus Travel has a Globe Trotter policy designed for backpackers who are travelling with the bare essentials. It has medical insurance up to £1 million and personal liability up to £1 million. Also included is cancellation cover of up to £1,000, personal accident cover of up to £15,000, legal expenses of up to £10,000 and loss

of passport of £150. It does not include cover for baggage, money or documents and the policy does not pay out if the flight is delayed.

The cover costs £26 for a month and £109 for six months for anyone between the ages of 16 and 64.

Julie Philpott, marketing director of Columbus, said: "We found that students were usually on a budget and did not want to pay for extra cover they were unlikely to need."

The more adventurous travellers

also tend to use their time abroad to try out new activities including bungee jumping, whitewater rafting, and scuba diving. Not all policies will cover you if you decide to take part in these, and Columbus strongly recommends people think hard about what activities they might be tempted to do while away.

Ms Philpott said: "Whitewater rafting, cycling and surfing are included in the insurance cover but we like people to tell us. Bungee

jumping is extra and scuba diving carries an extra premium which depends on how experienced you are as a diver. We have an action adventure policy which covers many of the sports including jet-skiing and paragliding. This costs about £5 extra per month on a standard policy."

WorldCover Direct has also introduced an "extended coverage" add-on policy, which covers members for a trip of any duration from three months to a full year with an "any-and-all supervised activities" at a cost of £100. This includes sky diving, big game hunting, bungee jumping and any other supervised hazardous activity while abroad. Medical evacuation by air ambulance, where necessary, is included.

Students travelling around the world on their gap year qualify for a 20 per cent discount on the normal rate of £350. WorldCover Direct (0800 365121) has a website at <http://www.worldcover.com>.

Insurers are realising that backpackers' no-frills policies are becoming increasingly popular and Leading Edge (01892 836622), which specialises in independent travel insurance, has brought out a new range of policies. A year's worldwide cover including the United States costs £234. A month's trip to the US is £35. The policy includes scuba diving, horse riding and bike hire, although more hazardous pursuits are quoted as one-off extras.

Travel Weekend pages 23-31

## The route to safe driving in the US

It is midnight. You have just arrived at an American airport. You walk through arrivals, collect your baggage and go to collect your hire car, believing that you and your family will soon be asleep at your motel.

You then discover you will not be able to pick up your vehicle without buying insurance. You will not be getting your kicks on Route 66 or any other highway unless you sign on the dotted line for CDW.

All US car hire firms require you to take out what is called collision or loss damage waiver (CDW or LDW) on a rental car before you leave the lot. This covers the vehicle for damage resulting from vandalism, fire, theft and collision. So you sign, pay a premium and drive away. However, this is not the end of the story. CDW cover does not necessarily give you third party cover and you could bankrupt yourself by fighting a lawsuit in the event of an accident with a third party or by paying medical expenses if you are injured.

You could decide to pay out for what is called supplemental liability insurance (SLI) which covers you for third party damage. The problem is that each US state sets its own liability limits which are normally very low compared with the UK which offers unlimited third party liability. And,

car hire firms tend to push their own brand insurance which may not be the best deal in terms of price or cover.

However, you could spare yourself some pain by arranging cover before you go. ExtraSure Travel Insurances offers an Americasure policy which provides CDW and travel insurance rolled into one. It also offers SLI cover called TopSure as a separate policy.

Americasure covers the vehicle for up to £15,000 damage which is suitable for most apart from sports cars. If you include travel insurance it will give you medical, hospital and treatment costs of up to £2 million; personal accident up to £10,000; personal belongings up to £1,000; cancellation cover up to £3,000; and personal liability for accidental injury to third party's excluding motor vehicles of up to £2 million. It also comes with a 24-hour legal advice helpline.

Americasure with travel insurance included would cost a couple going to the States for up to ten days £84, plus an extra £18 for each child between two and 16.

The TopSure premiums for a maximum of eight people between 25 and 74 are £48 for up to eight days.

ExtraSure Tel: 0171-488 9341 or 0171-480 6871

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		% Change	Position in sector	% Change	Position in sector
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Asian Smaller Markets	8.3.93	+15.5	7/70	+4.5	11/80
Emerging Companies	8.4.85	+892.1	1/29	+92.4	26/109
European Growth	8.11.88	+429.6	3/12	+176.5	18/37
Far Eastern Growth	8.11.88	+255.3	1/14	+4.2	9/27
International Growth	25.1.83	+770.2	3/16	+88.6	31/109
Japanese Growth	30.11.91	+10.3	7/28	+40.8	38/67
Latin American Growth	31.1.95	+18.2	18/21	-	-
UK Growth	24.10.87	+557.2	1/23	+148.8	5/58
<b>Income Accumulator Fund</b>					
US Dollar Bond Class	27.1.97	+11.4	27/71	-	-
International Bond Class	27.1.97	+11.4	22/154	-	-
US Dollar Money Market Class	27.1.97	+6.8	34/90	-	-
Sterling Bond Class	27.1.97	+23.6	1/88	-	-
Sterling Money Market Class	27.1.97	+8.5	24/71	-	-

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Same old story with a different name

In the world of insurance, Groundhog Day dawns once more. An industry on whom millions must rely for their security in old age, awakes to repeat the errors of the day before...



COMMENT ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

However, whereas the testy TV weatherman in the film emerges a reformed man from the constant repetition of one day's events, some insurance companies apparently learn nothing from their mistakes.

area so remunerative that some salesmen are even prepared to sell themselves schemes of dubious value to earn the commission (see page 52).

insurer into managing an AVC scheme for as little as 0.5 per cent. The same insurer may charge 3 per cent more for its FSAVC...

Colonial rule

THOSE who retain their investment at Foreign & Colonial's High Income Plan must either be long suffering or connoisseurs of the excuse. Using one pretext after another, the fund's managers have cut the income from the fund...

Patrick Collinson asks the experts about the case of a young widower

Lump sum or pension?

Pensions are hardly up-fermost in the mind of a husband whose wife dies tragically, particularly when the death leaves children without a mother.



When a wife dies tragically young, the result can be bewilderment over financial affairs, particularly pensions

The general rule for company pension schemes is that the spouse gets about 50 per cent of the pension his or her partner would have received at the date of death, while personal pensions pay the fund's value.

My wife died earlier this year. I have contacted her previous employer since she had been a member of the company pension fund and when she left the company in 1978 my wife opted for a deferred pension.

When a wife dies tragically young, the result can be bewilderment over financial affairs, particularly pensions. Unfortunately, pension experts contacted by Weekend Money consider the £3,778 lump sum offered to Mr W to be at the very least fair and possibly quite generous.



schemes, such as the teachers', didn't even give pensions to widowers, and many still don't add in service from before 1988 when things were equalised.

NORWICH UNION PEP advertisement with 'PEP up your savings tax-free' headline and contact information.

Request for free guide to Norwich Global Tracking PEP form with fields for name, address, and phone.

Chelsea Investments advertisement featuring '8.25%' interest rate and 'High interest with a GUARANTEED annual bonus'.

Chelsea Bonus Fifty advertisement with 'High interest with a GUARANTEED annual bonus' and 'BONUS ACCOUNT' graphic.

مركز من الأهل

# Squeaks end Devro bubble

Gartmore, the fund manager, made a candid review this week of the prematurely bearish stance it took two years ago on the stock market. It admits that higher ratings of UK shares can be justified by the parallel fall of a third in long-term interest rates. If static, no-risk returns are worth more, then growing returns on equities are worth more, even if they carry risks.

Gartmore argues, however, that such high ratings do not allow for risk and leave no room for nasty surprises. Warren Buffett, the folksy American investment guru, took a similar, if fence-sitting, line in May. Profits might keep growing fast. If they did, shares might not be overvalued. But "it takes a rosy scenario to justify these prices".

If that caveat applies to markets, it applies more keenly to individual stocks. As Gartmore puts it, this trend will "eventually eliminate all but a few equities from the safe list".

The perils were well illustrated this week by the fall of Devro International, the Scottish company that brought financial glamour to the world of sausage castings. Devro shares fell by more than a third after the board issued a warning that first half profits might be about 8 per cent lower than last year.

This hardly portends disaster. Sausages are not a fickle market but have their bubbles and squeaks. Devro had to throw away all material derived from cattle when the EU beef crisis struck. The company has an advanced product, developed for medical use when it was



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

part of Johnson & Johnson. But it has won most of the mature UK market. Shares were sold to the public in 1993, two years after a management buyout that, as usual, yielded the easy gains to venture capital and the board.

Above-average growth had to come from an American firm that Devro bought two years ago, which had big sales but small profits. Most of the projected setback can be blamed on the high pound, but a mysterious drop in UK sausage demand took away the rise in profit the City anticipated.

Such routine trials of business life torpedoed Devro's shares only because they had soared to 545p in May, where they sold at a demanding 23 times earnings. For the same reason, managers who proved their skills over five years are suddenly pariahs in the City.

Devro was one of five Scottish companies that came to the market within a few months in the new issues

boom of 1993. Their fate shows the need to rate risk. Inveresk, the paper group, has steadily lost most of its value. After an encouraging start, oil services company OGC International fell heavily by the wayside, until a bid recouped most of shareholders' losses in 1997. Quayle Munro, a miniature corporate finance outfit, has kept ahead of the index.

The group also had one true market star to make it all worthwhile. Stagecoach Holdings has ridden the fraught but rapid growth of subsidised transport franchises ruthlessly, multiplying early shareholders' money fivefold. As a recent deal with Virgin implies, there is plenty more potential. But is it wise to value Stagecoach at more than 30 times earnings when its shares sold at between 15 and 24 times earnings in its earlier years of spectacular growth from a small base?

Then there was Devro. Its shares always had that special appeal of companies with strong cash flow. But at their 1993 offer price of 170p, they were rated at 16 times past profits and just 13 times expected earnings. The company delivered and its shares kept up well with the all-share index until last year, when they suddenly took off on the American prospects, leaping almost 60 per cent in a year. That was its undoing. Devro remains a solid company but has lost a star status it should never have given.

If the market turns fallible companies into immaculate stars, they will be shot down by the first whiff of grapeshot.

Until recently, Sears shareholders, who have had to put up with the dismal performance of their investment, could at least comfort themselves with a little retail therapy and discount deals at Selfridges worth up to £200.

But news this week that nearly 22,000 investors are to lose this perk as a result of the demerger of the Oxford Street store from the troubled retailer, angered those who value their discount cards more than the investment itself.

Perks attached to shares are commonly used by companies to generate loyalty among shareholders and investors are finding the benefits increasingly attractive. Sears offers investors with 500 shares or more 10 per cent off purchases up to £2,000 bought at Selfridges with a Sears card. Shareholders are also entitled to 10 per cent discounts on up to £3,000 from the rest of the group, including Wallis, Miss Selfridge and Richard Shops.

But the new benefits are a lot less generous. Under the terms of the demerger, shareholders will be given one Selfridges share for every ten Sears shares they own. However, investors must hold 500 or more shares — the equivalent of 5,000 Sears shares — in order to qualify for discounts at Selfridges after the demerger on July 18. After that date, discounts at Selfridges will be available only up to £1,000, as the department store will scrap the cardholder system, replacing it with a book of vouchers giving shoppers £10 off every £100 spent on a single shopping trip.

Nearly 22,000 — over 60 per cent — of Sears shareholders own between 500 and 5,000 shares, a small stake which is just enough to qualify for the perk at present. Among them is Alan Forbes, who bought a minimum of 500 shares. Mr Forbes, a retired dental surgeon in West Sussex, is angry that the main incentive for his investment is being scrapped and plans to raise the issue at next month's shareholders' meeting. "I bought the shares for the discount," he said. "I could see they were not good value when I bought them 18 months ago but £200 worth of discounts is substantial. That is the reason to hold them."

Another shareholder, Norma Bagshaw, who has held

## Never buy a share just for the perks



Norma Bagshaw feels let down after holding Sears for ten years

Sears shares for more than ten years and seen her investment fall by 60 per cent, feels long-term shareholders have been let down. Mrs Bagshaw, from Stockport, was looking forward to using her Selfridges discount when the Manchester shop opens in September. However, the changes mean she will not qualify for the perk. "I don't think it is very fair. It's not as useful as it was before. I bought the shares in 1986 and kept them thinking things can't get worse."

However, Peter Williams, finance director of Selfridges, said the new set of incentives still compares favourably with other retailers. He said:

"I know it will not appease some shareholders but frankly it was uneconomic to offer the discount as it stood. You only had to buy £80 worth of shares to qualify for £200 worth of discounts."

More than 100 companies offer shareholder perks, most of them retailers, airlines, tour operators and leisure companies. Incentives vary from £10 worth of discount vouchers at Boots to potentially hundreds of pounds off air fares or holidays. For shareholders receiving the more generous benefits perks can significantly increase the return on an investment. And unlike dividends or the final

capital gains, these benefits are tax-free.

Whitbread, the brewer, offers discount vouchers with a total value of £43.50 which investors can spend in restaurants such as TGI Fridays, and 12.5 per cent discounts on leisure vouchers. Rank Group takes 15 per cent off holidays booked directly at Bullins, Haven, Warner and Oasis Forest Holidays. British Airways gives 10 per cent off flights for the shareholder and up to three family members travelling with him and 5 per cent off BA holidays, for more than 200 shares.

Provided the investment is sound, perks can prove very enticing as the recent scramble for Thomson shares during the travel group's £1.7 billion flotation showed. When the group floated on May 11 all successful applicants were allocated 294 shares, worth £500 at the flotation price of 170p.

As a result of the offer of 10 per cent discount off holidays for shareholders and their travelling companions, the flotation was heavily oversubscribed. Thomson responded by promising to make everyone a member of the Founders' Club. However, Thomson's perks are available only to those who subscribed to the first issue of shares. If shares are sold on, the new owner will not benefit from the discount. Rival Airtoours, however, offers 10 per cent off holidays to all shareholders whether the shares were bought at flotation or not. Peter Hargreaves, director of Hargreaves Lansdown Asset Management, cautions against buying shares purely for the perks, although he concedes that many investors are attracted by the benefits. "You should only buy shares if you think the company is worth investing in," he said. "If on top of that the benefits are products you would buy anyway, then that's when it becomes a perk. You should definitely not buy shares purely for the perk."

For free booklets on shareholder perks, ring Hargreaves Lansdown on 0800-850 661 or Barclays Stockbrokers on 0345-777 400.

Thomson inquiry, page 57

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Savings rates take a turn for the better

Midland Bank has increased its interest rates on savings and variable-rate mortgages for new and existing customers. The bank's fixed-rate mortgage is unchanged.

Barclays Bank has announced an average increase in its savings rates of 0.25 per cent. Changes to interest rates apply to all Barclays savings accounts except the Postal account.

Northern Rock has also adjusted rates on its savings accounts. Those affected include Branch Select Instant, Select 60, Select 30 and Select Instant Postal Accounts.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Nationwide BS 0500-302 010, C&G 0800-742 437, First National BS 0800-568 844.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Chelsea BS 0800-132 351, Standard Life Bank 0345-555 657, Legal & General Bank 0500-111 200.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Ipswich BS 01473-211 021, SAGA (for over 50s) 0800-300 555, Midland Bank 0800-180 180.

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Includes Capital One Bank 0800-669 000, RBS Advanta 0800-777 770.

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Personal Loans, APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance, No insurance. Includes Northern Rock 0345-421 421, Yorkshire Bank 0800-202 122.

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01603 478747)

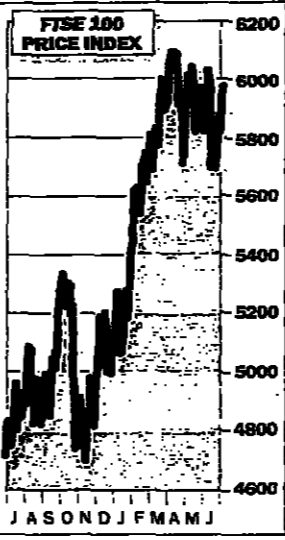
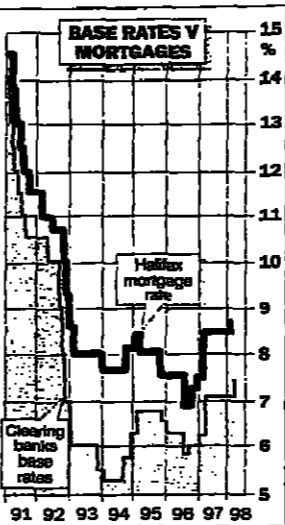


Table titled NATIONAL SAVINGS with columns: Gross rate, At tax rates, Minimum investment, Notice, Contact. Lists various savings products from providers like National Westminster, Equitable Life, and Sun Life.

PENSION ANNUITIES

Table showing pension annuity rates for single life and joint life with second widows. Columns include gender, age, and annuity rates for different providers like Sun Life and Equitable Life.

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

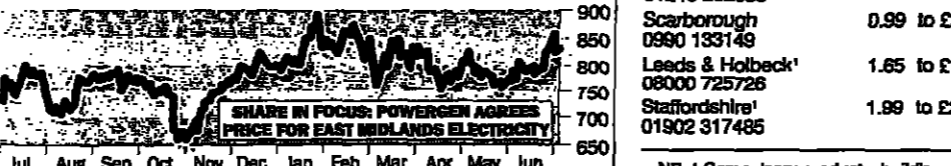
Table with columns: Investment (£), Company, Standard Rate (%). Lists guaranteed income bonds from providers like AIG Life and GE Fin Assur.

PIBS

Table with columns: Fixed Rate, Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Lists PIBs from providers like Birmingham Midshires and Bradford & Bingley.

PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

Table with columns: Issuer, Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Lists perpetual bonds from providers like Chelt & Gloucester and Halifax.



LARGER LENDERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists lenders like Bank of Scotland and Alliance & Leicester.

LARGER LOANS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists lenders for larger loans like Bank of Scotland and Halifax.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists lenders for first-time buyers like Dudley and Wesleyan Hm Lns.

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Advertisement for 8.00% gross p.a. fixed rate one year bond. Includes contact information for Bristol West and a website URL.

UNIT TRADED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Large table listing various insurance and investment products, including AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE, ABNEY LIFE, and various mutual funds.

Large table listing various insurance and investment products, including HALIFAX LIFE LTD, EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE, and various mutual funds.

Large table listing various insurance and investment products, including SCOTCH LIFE INVESTMENTS, NAT WEST LIFE ASSURE LTD, and various mutual funds.

Source: Chamberlain de Broij 0171-493 7800. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01603 478747)

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01603 478747)

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference.



Susan Emmett reports on the latest moves in the housing market

# Fixed-rates reign as fears grow of another rate rise

Homeowners are bracing themselves for the prospect of a further increase in mortgage payments as the Bank of England meets to discuss the possibility of another rate rise next week.

Growing inflation and rising salaries are fuelling fears that rates could go up for the fifth time since July last year and are prompting borrowers to opt for the security of fixed-rate mortgage deals.

Since the beginning of July 1997, mortgage rates for the majority of lenders have risen from 7.95 per cent to 8.95 per cent and borrowers have paid between £600 and £700 more interest on a £50,000 standard variable-rate mortgage in the year.

In June, the Halifax, the Woolwich and Barclays increased their standard variable rate to 8.95 per cent after the 0.25 per cent base rate rise to 7.5 per cent at the start of the month.

The move followed similar increases by Northern Rock, Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester and Cheltenham & Gloucester.

Meanwhile, Bradford & Bingley promised to freeze its rate at 8.45 per cent until August and Nationwide said that it would hold its rate at 8.1 per cent until the same date unless base rates go up again.

As rates stand at the moment, the difference between payments on the Halifax's and Nationwide's variable rate is an extra

£68.70 a month on a £100,000 interest-only mortgage with the bank.

The string of rate increases and a slowdown in the economy is weakening the housing market according to the latest Halifax housing survey.

The number of property transactions fell to 108,000 in May, a drop of more than 10 per cent on last year. The lender said the general trend pointed towards a weaker and more cautious market which could be seriously affected by another rate rise.

However, Halifax expects house prices to continue to rise in price modestly, as properties remain cheap relative to average earnings. The bank also forecasts that house price inflation will remain at 5 per cent this year slowing to about 4 per cent in 1999.

Most homeowners who continue to take out mortgages are opting for fixed rates. Philip Cartwright, director at London and Country Mortgages, the broker, said: "Fixing is a good thing at the moment. A year ago, about 30 per cent of our customers were going for fixed rates. That amount has now doubled. Most people are asking for a fix. The latest rate rise was unexpected and a lot of people are wondering where it is all going to end."

Mr Cartwright expects a further rate rise by August and that rates will remain

steady for about a year before they start to come down again. He is advising borrowers to opt for shorter rather than longer fixes and to avoid products with redemption penalties which continue for a long time after the fix has ended.

He said that the Coventry Building Society's five-year fix at 6.2 per cent and the Portman Building Society's two-year deal at 6.49 per cent were both attractive because they carried no penalties after the fixed period.

This week, the Woolwich launched one capped rate and five fixed-rate mortgages, including a five-year fix with no extended tie-in at 6.85 per cent and a two-year fixed product at 6.19 per cent with £500 cash back.

Ray Boulger, manager at John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said that increasing competition among lenders as well as rate increase, was steering borrowers towards fixed products.

Mr Boulger said: "Fixed rates are very competitive compared with the discounted rates. They are cheap initially and give people the peace of mind."

"Whenever there is a rate rise, particularly when it is unexpected, it focuses people's minds on fixed rates. There appears to be the distinct possibility of another rate rise. People are looking for protection and in the last few months 75 per cent of our business has been on fixed rates."

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Sarah and Vincent Tickle have just taken out a five-year fix with the Coventry Building Society. The couple, who live in a three-bedroom Edwardian terrace in Newcastle, chose to move from the Abbey National after their previous five-year fixed loan ran out.

The move from Abbey National's variable rate of 8.95 per cent to Coventry's 6.2 per cent fix has cut £107 a month off the payments on their £50,000 mortgage.

Mrs Tickle, a company manager, said: "I am very glad we got the 6.2 per cent deal. We opted for the fix because of the security. You

know what you are going to be paying every month."

The latest rate rise and the threat of a further increase has prompted lenders to revamp their fixed rate and capped products. Abbey National introduced six new capped rate mortgages and Nationwide increased the rates on its two, three and five-year home-loan products.

The building society now charges 6.89 per cent for its two-year fix, up from 6.19 per cent, 7.19 per cent up from 6.59 per cent for its three-year product and 7.29 per cent up from 6.69 per cent on its five-year deal.

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# SFA launches formal inquiry into Thomson Travel flotation

The Securities and Futures Authority, the City regulator, has taken the unprecedented step of launching a formal investigation into the handling of the Thomson Travel Group's £1.7 billion share flotation after thousands of complaints from private investors.

None of the companies involved were prepared for the huge response to the offer from the public who were keen to buy shares in the offer because it guaranteed them holiday discounts and shareholder perks.

The companies under scrutiny are Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, Thomson Travel Group's financial adviser; SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the global co-ordinator of the offer; and the five appointed share shops that handled the one million individual registrations, half of which turned into formal applications.

The share shops are the Share Centre, Barclays Stockbrokers, NatWest Stockbrokers, Skipton Building Society's dealing service, and Hargreaves Lansdown stockbrokers.

The SFA said that investors who were unhappy about the

## Marianne Curphey reports on the result of thousands of complaints

registration process in May should complain first to the relevant share shop about the handling of their application. If they were still not satisfied then their complaint could be forwarded to the SFA's Complaints Bureau.

A spokeswoman said: "Where conciliation fails, the complainant may refer the matter to the Consumer Arbitration Scheme for consideration by an independent arbitrator with the power to make a binding award."

All those companies being investigated could be publicly fined, reprimanded, or even struck off the register if they are found to have breached the SFA's rules and principles.

The investigation will look at whether the timetable for applications was adequate, whether too few share shops were appointed, and how the share shops dealt with the backlog of applications from investors.

A total of 150 complaints and 650 enquiries were logged

than September 1 as originally planned.

If the SFA finds any of the companies involved have breached the rules, complainants may have recourse to the SFA's compensation scheme from which individuals can claim up to £50,000.

The Share Centre has already admitted that it had a problem with a mailing house which meant that there was a delay in some applicants receiving registration forms.

Gavin Oldham, chief executive, said: "We have put on a special free dealing service for people who were affected by this problem."

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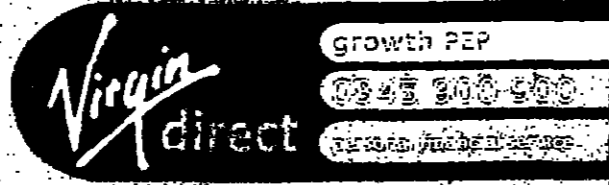
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\*Source: Standard & Poor's Mipreal. Performance figures based on buying to selling prices to 1.7.98 with gross income reinvested. ■ 2% discount on the buying price of units for lump sum PEP investments of £1,000 or more. ■ The value of investments and income from them may fluctuate and are not guaranteed. ■ Changes in rates of exchange may cause the value of your investment to rise or fall. ■ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. ■ The last treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. ■ The Mercury European Growth Fund is a unit trust managed by Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) the unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management Ltd. ■ The Mercury PEPs are managed by Mercury Asset Management Ltd (regulated by IMRO). ■ This advertisement is based on the Chancellor's Budget statement on 17.3.98 ■ Issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS <http://www.miam.com> which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and represents only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. ■ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

# Yawn, yawn, yawn

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# A wonder fund under fire

Gavin Lumsden on how the growing spectre of EMU has forced more changes at F&C

The uncertainty surrounding economic monetary union in Europe has forced the fund manager Foreign & Colonial to make changes to one of the most controversial funds of the decade.

Foreign & Colonial High Income Plan (HIP) caused a sensation when it was launched in 1993 with a promise to pay 10 per cent annual income, a hitherto unheard-of level for most investors. A lucrative commission offer from F&C spurred financial advisers to encourage demand with the result that nearly £500 million was poured into the fledgling unit trust.

Things quickly turned sour, however, when in the first year the stock market fell, causing investors' capital to drop by 13 per cent, more than they had received in income. In 1994 in a bid to stop investors' capital being eroded further, F&C reduced the income yield to a more realistic 9 per cent. As a placatory gesture it also cut its annual management fee from 1.5 per cent to 1.25 per cent. But this did not stop disappointed



Euro we go, euro we go: Fabienne Courtiade, an engraver at the Paris Mint, puts finishing touches to a plaster blank for euro coins

investors fleeing. Since then HIP has undergone an extensive overhaul of its investment strategy and enjoyed an unprecedented boom in the stock market. This has allowed its unit price to recover by 20 per cent. This would normally be grounds for celebration. However, so bad was the early performance it simply means that the fund has only slightly passed its original launch price of 25p. Once the fund's charges are taken into account, investors who have stuck with HIP for more than five years are still nursing capital losses of over 2.5 per cent — a direct breach of F&C's promise that their money would be safe in the long term.

Now F&C has changed tack once again. The company is concerned that interest rates could fall as low as 3 per cent as the UK hovers around the doorway of the European single currency. With up to half of its money in interest-earning instruments F&C fears its high income strategy could become too risky with more capital losses for investors.

In a case of once bitten twice shy, F&C has decided to amend its yield target. From October, instead of offering investors 9 per cent, the High Income Plan

will aim to yield 2 per cent more than short-term interest rates as measured by Libor, the inter-bank lending rate. Although the immediate effect of this new floating rate will be to increase the yield to 9.5 per cent, in the long term the income to investors is likely to drop. For example, an investor holding £6,000 of HIP units in a PEP will currently be getting £48 monthly income. If rates do fall to 3 per cent and the unit price stays the same, HIP will yield just £26 a month. If, against all forecasts rates actually rise to 10 per cent, investors could reap £60 income.

Amazingly, in spite of all that investors have gone through, F&C has also seen fit to increase its annual fee back to 1.5 per cent. This innocuous-looking rise means F&C increases its income by £1 million just as it prepares to commensurate a reduction for the 50,000 HIP investors.

The change is all the more unfair because it actually increases the strain on the fund's

portfolio. It means HIP's manager, Stephen Dolbear, will have to provide an 11 per cent income instead of 10.75 per cent just to stand still.

Philip Childs, head of UK Retail at F&C, insists the company is not cashing in on investor misery and that the increase in fee reflects the rise in technology costs. However, experts point to the fact that the complex derivatives strategy which Mr Dolbear uses to top up the income from the fund's cash deposits and equity holdings has become increasingly expensive.

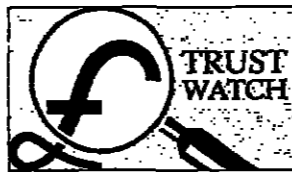
Mr Childs says the changes are not all one-way traffic in favour of his company. Even if there is a fall in interest rates HIP could still continue to generate its current yield if there is sufficient growth in the stock market to compensate.

In addition, he points to the other changes F&C has made. In future HIP's yield will be calculated in relation to its current unit price, not the launch price of 25p which it has

used until now. The introduction of the Libor link is supposed to enhance the prospects for capital growth, he says. As a result, the unit price could rise, leaving investors with more income per month even if the yield percentage stays the same. For example, if HIP units rise 4.5p from their current level to 30p the PEP investor mentioned earlier would get £7 a month, a £10 increase.

However, this cuts no ice with Graham Farquharson, of Premier Unit Trust Brokers in Bristol, who says high income funds are a waste of time. He says investors should concentrate on equity income funds which achieve good total returns by growing capital as well as income. In the past three years the best equity income funds have achieved total returns of 18 per cent, 11 per cent and 19 per cent, far above what HIP has offered.

For income investors looking for safer alternatives, Justin Modray of Chase de Vere Investments in London suggests corporate bond PEPs such as offered by Commercial Union. Although its yield of 7.5 per cent is much lower than HIP, it has a better record in increasing investors' capital.



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# Think hard before taking the plunge

Spreading risk is important for all investors, but particularly for those who are just thinking of plunging into the stock market for the first time. It is probably for this reason that John Heskett, group head of sales at Baring Asset Management, makes the brave claim that if a private investor is going to invest in just one unit trust, they should consider the Baring Portfolio Fund.



Would you be brave enough to put all your savings into one Barings trust? Jill Insley reports

Barings is just starting to enable investors to put part of their Portfolio Fund holding in a PEP just six months before the scheme is replaced by the individual savings account. "It is astonishing that they have not offered the PEP option before. It just goes to show how out of touch some of these old-style houses are," he says.

Adrian Shandley of Balmoral, the Southport independent financial adviser, says that the fund's charges are average, costing 5 per cent initially plus 1.5 per cent for annual management charges. He thinks potential investors would appreciate a relaunch discount. However, the fund does have its good points. The increased level of reporting is commendable, and something that most other fund managers should consider emulating.

Chris Wicks of Kidsons Imprey Scott Lang, the Manchester chartered accountant, says his firm has included the fund on its recommended list and he would consider suggesting it to clients with small investment portfolios. "Since Richard Buxton took over he has brought the performance up, and the fund provides a wide asset allocation for someone with small amounts to invest," he says.

Barings has just repackaged the 30-year-old fund to attract new investors. It now offers the option to include the fund's units in a PEP and the ability to withdraw cash from the investor's capital on a monthly basis. It will also provide quarterly updates, including the outlook for the fund and underlying markets, a valuation of the investor's personal holding and a full breakdown of the fund's entire portfolio.

The fund's performance has also improved since Richard Buxton, the current fund manager, took over in October 1996. According to figures supplied by Standard & Poor's Microcap, the fund is ranked 9th out of 21 funds in the Managed Funds sector over five years, 10th out of 27 funds over three years, and 2nd out of 32 funds over one year.

The improved package, Barings believes, is enough to provide investors cost-effectively with a personal service similar to that which a private client investor with a substantial share portfolio might expect from their stockbroker.

Ian Millward, of Chase de Vere Investments, the Bath independent financial adviser, is unconvinced. He says: "First I wouldn't recommend that any investor puts money into just one unit trust. Imagine how you would feel if that particular fund management company developed problems. The golden rule of

investment is not to put all your eggs in one basket."

This point is particularly pertinent in the light of Barings's own financial problems just four years ago. The group's banking arm faced ruin after one trader ran up huge losses in the derivatives market. Barings's unit trusts were unaffected by the problems, but many investors, including Mr Millward's own parents, suffered a distressing weekend until the situation became clear.

Mr Millward suggests that someone who is just starting to invest in unit trusts or who has just a small amount to invest could get a wider spread of shares by investing in a fund that invests in other funds — a fund of funds. This type of fund provides exposure to several share portfolios, not just one.

He recommends Rothschild Asset Management's Five Arrows Independent Growth and Independent Income Funds, both of which hold a portfolio of 15 to 20 unit trusts, or the range of unit trusts run by Portfolio Fund Management, a company which specialises in funds of funds. Nor is Mr Millward impressed that

Unfortunately, the minimum investment for the enhanced service is £10,000, a big initial deposit for any investor, let alone one who is just starting to put money into unit trusts. The capital withdrawal scheme, which allows investors to cash regular amounts of money, is only available to investors with £20,000, excluding any PEP holding, taking the benefit even further from the reach of small investors. However, Mr Wicks says: "This is not an option normally available on unit trusts and I think most people would want to invest in this unit trust for capital growth."

Score: Mr Wicks ★★★★★  
Mr Millward ★★  
Mr Shandley ★★  
Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

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Robinson keeps eye on leaders



STAR QUEST 55

Graham Searjeant on the firms that fell to Earth

WEEKEND MONEY

A FIX IN TIME 57

Everybody's doing it — fixed-rate loans soar in popularity



Take cover if you go the extra mile



The exotic holiday is now commonplace. Trips to once exclusive destinations are now almost as everyday as a package to the Algarve.

home with fiancée Alison Head, lost his baggage in the first two weeks of a seven-month world trip while flying from Los Angeles to Ecuador via Miami.

after the loss, but made the claim after he had returned home, simply buying replacement items as needed.

LIZANNE ROSE AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

Prudent if not moral

Anyone who has been mis-sold a personal pension by the Prudential Corporation now knows where their compensation is coming from — the very fund in which their money has been invested.

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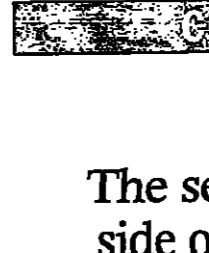
The Pru insists that this financial cushion, which City experts reckon at between £5 billion and £7 billion, will also allow it to continue paying policy bonuses at existing levels.

RICHARD MILES

INSIDE



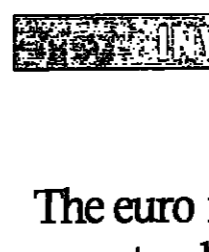
54 Anne Ashworth on the threat of a new pension scandal



51 The serious side of 1998 football mania



55 Shareholders complain at loss of perk



58 The euro forces rate change at F & C

BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 25-29

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Bristol & West revived the controversy surrounding the treatment of customers by banks and building societies by cutting some of its rates without notice on the same day base rates went up.

The bank, which shed its mutual status last July, cut the rates on its 30-day notice account by 0.5 per cent as base rates increased from 7.25 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

The move, which came only eight months after the launch of the account, angered savers who were attracted to Bristol & West by the chart-topping rates.

Les Mills, a former Northern Rock depositor, is withdrawing his savings from

Fury as Bristol & West 'shrink' 30-day account

Bristol & West. He said: "I am rather disappointed to say the least. Customers don't exist for banks, banks exist for customers. If this is customer services, then count me out. It would be nice to know why they have dropped their rates when others are increasing theirs. This is clearly a nonsense."

A sum of £10,000 invested in the Postal 30 now earns 7.3 per cent and £5,000, 6.25 per cent. The rate on the monthly income Postal 30 is down from 7.53 per cent to 7.07 per cent. Savers' anger was compounded by Bristol & West's

failure to notify them in writing. Instead, the bank ran four adverts in the national press, two of which appeared nearly three weeks after the event.

Bristol & West is the latest in a long line of banks criticised for launching attractive new accounts and then cutting the interest payments without notice — a practice known as 'shrinking'. The issue has drawn increasing political fire and prompted Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, to announce a review of the banking code next spring.

A spokeswoman for Bristol & West said: "The decision to lower rates was entirely independent of the base rate increase. We are bringing it in line with competitors, but it is still 0.2 per cent above the average 30-day account."

Bristol & West said it was too expensive to write to customers informing them of changes but that it was listening to Helen Liddell and watching for the outcome of the OFT's investigation of Northern Rock.

David Davis, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and Tory MP who first drew attention to the issue, said: "This is another blatant example of the same problem. It demonstrates that the banks and building societies operate to the limit of the banking code and that the code needs to be much tighter than it is now."

SUSAN EMMETT

Flood of complaints delayed

Thousands of disgruntled clients who have complained to the Law Society about the poor service or high bills they have received from their solicitors have been given a warning to expect severe delays in their cases being heard.

Complainants, many of whom have already been waiting months for their cases to be reviewed, have now been told that they are unlikely to hear any more until the end of July.

The Law Society has admitted that some people will have to be told that the files relating to their cases cannot be salvaged. If their solicitors submitted original documents without keeping copies, their cases may never be satisfactorily resolved.

Anyone who feels they have been overcharged by their solicitor is entitled to ask the Law Society to review their bill using the society's remuneration certificate scheme, which was first set up in 1994.

The remuneration certificate scheme is not designed to cover contentious business involving court proceedings, such as a personal injury case that has gone to court. In these cases, dissatisfied clients have to apply to the court for a taxation order.



Flashback: the scene during the Leamington Spa flood at Easter

least one third, he or she may be asked to pay the costs of the hearing. These can be substantial.

The Law Society advises clients who believe they have received excessive bills first to attempt to resolve the matter directly with the law firm concerned. If a satisfactory conclusion cannot be reached, the solicitor is obliged to inform clients of their right to challenge the bill through the Law Society's remuneration certificate scheme.

However, it is, of course, impossible to ascertain whether all solicitors do this. If a client is unaware of his rights and his solicitor does not tell them, they cannot blow the whistle. Once a client has requested that their solicitor applies to the Law Society for a remuneration certificate, the firm must do so. It is crucial that dissatisfied clients ask their solicitors to apply for a remuneration certificate

within one month of receiving their bill, otherwise they lose their right to do so.

Other types of complaint, for example, where clients believe they have received shoddy service or that their solicitor has breached professional conduct rules, are handled directly by the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors.

For many people, the main point of contact with solicitors comes when they move house. Housebuyers who do not want to be overcharged by their solicitor might be interested in the Woolwich's annual cost-of-moving survey. This details average solicitors' fees for both buying and selling. It also outlines the average cost of estate agents, removal firms, stamp duty and surveys — broken down according to the house price. The survey also tips on buying and selling.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'There was i the roa givin birth my bal' and 'Who is the fairest KAT SAUND Lily Joe'

Arabic text at the bottom center: صكيات الأصيل

سكزا من الأصل

JULY 4 1998

FASHION



The sheer pleasures of getting layered in summer

PAGE 5

FAY WELDON



Shopping: the best thing to happen to a woman

PAGE 4

TRAVEL



Are we there yet? The A-Z of family holidays

PAGE 23

ANNE ROBINSON



Diana's garden: Not in my back yard

PAGE 3

SATURDAY JULY 4 1998

THE TIMES WEEKEND

'There I was in the road, giving birth to my baby'

Joanna Pitman's labour started early — and ended on the pavement

Nothing had prepared us for the scene on Friday evening two weeks ago just after eight o'clock in which I found myself standing scantily dressed in a T-shirt, beside a letter box on the pavement outside St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, West London, giving birth to our daughter. None of the classes or books had offered instructions to fathers on scrum-half fielding for new infants, but Giles was there to catch the baby as she fell. That image of her head and tiny body coming out will never leave me. It still makes me cry to think of it and to remember that extraordinary mixture of wild amazement, humility and shock that I felt at that moment of her birth. I had attended a respectable number of ante-natal classes and had converted to the way of big-bellied yoga with the help of West London's ante-natal yogic guru, Lollie Stirk. My husband Giles had done the fathers' classes, had gazed long and hard at diagrams of the perineum and had put himself through a mock contraction (with grunting) lying on the floor in a cosy circle with 14 other putative West London fathers. I had the breathing techniques sorted and Giles knew more than a thing or two about lower back massage. We had read two fully comprehensive books on the subject of childbirth. So, all in all, we reckoned we knew the form. It had all begun suspiciously quietly on the Friday morning around five o'clock. I was woken up by a back pain. Nothing too agonising, just something resembling a strong period pain right down in the lower back. It lasted about 30 seconds and then stopped. I went back to sleep. This happened two or three more times and then it all stopped. I woke up a couple of hours later anticipating more, but nothing was going on down below and I decided this must have been a phantom dry run. I got up, had breakfast and resigned myself to another few days' wait. The baby's head was still not engaged (slotted down into the pelvis and on the runway to freedom) and I was convinced it was going to be late. I had my hair cut, bought a couple of pot plants (later identified as my first and only sign of nesting) and came home for lunch. I had felt a few twinges during the morning but nothing more serious than that, so I was still convinced that

Continued on page 2



Joanna Pitman with baby Alice. "People keep asking me if I was embarrassed but when you're having a baby in the street dignity is not something that bothers you"

ENTERTAINMENT 1-10 COUNTRY LIFE 11-12 GARDENING 13-14 PROPERTY 15-16 HOME LIFE 17-18 TRAVEL 19-22 GAMES 23-26

Advertisement for the book 'Who is the fairest of them all?' by Lily Josephine. Includes quotes from Daily Telegraph and The Times, and the text 'NOW AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS'.

As I got out of the car I shouted 'I can't move. It's coming!'

Continued from page 1  
this was not The Day. I read the papers and put my feet up. At 5.30 I felt a stronger pain in the back. For 20 minutes nothing happened and then the contractions became strong. Still I was not sure I was in labour, because I'd heard so many tales of false starts.

At six o'clock we started timing them. They were very random, every seven, eight or ten minutes and lasting anything from 20 to 40 seconds at a time. By this stage, the contractions seemed to be coming so fast that my brain finally got into gear and I decided that I must by now be in labour.

After an hour, we rang St Mary's to tell them what was going on, aware that I would probably have another ten to 20 hours at home before going in (all first-time mothers are encouraged to stay at home as long as possible to avoid going in prematurely and being sent home again). I wanted to know whether to use the TENS machine (a neat gadget that sends gentle painkilling impulses across the skin) or whether I should hold off with my bag of reserve tricks if it was going to be a long haul.

The midwife checked that my waters had not broken and suggested a bath. I got in the bath and let out a huge sigh of relief. Every tension in my body relaxed. I lay there whale-like for ten minutes and then the storm hit.

Two massive contractions came suddenly, close together. I wondered pitifully whether I had ten hours of this before getting into serious labour.

Giles was summoned and told to prepare the TENS machine sharpish. Being trainee parents, and incompetent to boot, we had not unpacked the hired package. So, as Giles pulled a tangle of wires, pads, batteries and tapes out of the bag and started fitting it together, I eased myself out of the bath. We had the electrodes taped to my back and single volume up high when I let out a hideous grunt and felt the first unmistakable urge to push. This had been discussed in the classes as a totally involuntary urge, something that you cannot avoid doing.

I knew without a doubt that this was "the urge" but I could not deal with it. Giles rang the hospital as I got down on my hands and knees on the bathmat, bottom stuck up in the air to defy gravity, and thought a lot of unprintable thoughts along the lines of "What the hell is going on here?"

A surprised and naturally sceptical midwife told us to come straight in. Somehow, between pushes, Giles pulled one of his T-shirts over my head, draped a dressing-gown round my shoulders and put me into the back of the car.

Then began the worst journey of my life. Perched on one buttock, I focused every sensory faculty I could summon on breathing deeply and slowly. Giles remembers complete silence apart from loud animal grunts every time the pushing came, but I remember thinking "there's no point getting hysterical". Strange how rational you can be in such a situation. As we turned into the stretch beside Paddington station, I instinctively knew that the baby's head was beginning to appear. I got on my hands and knees and stuck my bottom in the air — had a policeman see us we'd have been cautioned for mooning.

Round the corner into Praed Street and into the hospital complex, I told Giles (amazingly calmly) not to park but to come straight in with me. We



Giles and Joanna Pitman with Alice. "She probably wonders how on earth she could have been saddled with such incompetent parents"

**BIRTH DIARY**  
6.30pm: Start to time contractions.  
7.05pm: Giles rings the hospital.  
7.15pm: Run a bath and relax.  
7.35pm: Begin involuntarily to push.  
7.45pm: Put T-shirt, dressing gown and shoes on and struggle into car.  
7.55pm: Can feel the head crowning.  
8.03pm: Struggle on to the pavement; Giles runs for a doctor.  
8.04pm: Giles catches the baby.

staggered across the road in front of a police car. I was trailing wires and dressing gown cords all over the place. As I got to the other side I shouted "I can't move... It's coming!"

Giles sprinted to reception shouting for a doctor. A man approached asking if he could help. "I don't know... I'm having a baby!" I yelled. Giles rushed back through the crowd of passers-by and as he got there, I felt one last heaving push and the head appeared, followed by a little body which sithered out like a fish. Giles caught her in a torrent of blood and waters and she let out a wonderful lusty yell. A large woman who must have been a hospital employee going off duty, was standing in front of me and got splattered with blood all over her legs, too. In fact, anyone in the front line was bespattered. There was so much blood in my shoes that I had to throw them away later.

The first question everyone asked me about this episode is: "Weren't you embarrassed?" The answer is that it never crossed my mind. When a baby is emerging from between your legs, dignity is not something that bothers you. As all good performers know, the secret to holding an audience is entrances, and Alice has certainly got that taped. No doubt one day she will show all her boyfriends the spot by the letter box on South Wharf Road where she was born, and tell them the extraordinary tale of how she came into the world, a street urchin dropped on the back streets of Paddington.

The large woman did not flinch, however, and immediately began producing a calming commentary for us, making reassuring noises about the baby's robust condition and the position of the umbilical chord. There was still a great deal of commotion (at least a dozen people were pressing in to have a good look) and I remember wanting everyone to go away and let us quietly look at our new baby, wrap her up and check that she had weathered her dramatic arrival into the world.

Eventually, a young man pushed through the crowd shouting "I'm a gynaecologist." He summoned a stretcher and ushered on to it me and this tiny creature attached to me by its still-pumping umbilical. Whoever he was, Thank You Very Much.

Meanwhile we all set off in a triumphant little procession to the labour ward and our tiny baby began having a good look round, presumably wondering how on earth she could have got saddled with such incompetent parents. We got to the labour ward and crowds of midwives came in to hear the tale of this dramatic BBA (Born Before Arrival).

"Oooh well done dear! What a lovely cheap delivery. Only two hours! If only all our mums could do that..." The baby, checked over, cord cut and declared healthy — and female — settled happily into her father's arms as her mother was eased on to a bed and finally went into shock. My arms and legs began shaking in the sort of involuntary slow motion movement that I had always imagined was wildly exaggerated on television. My T-shirt was peeled off, the wires and dressing gown cord unravelled from my legs and I was wrapped in blankets, given the most exquisite cup of tea I have ever had and stitched up.

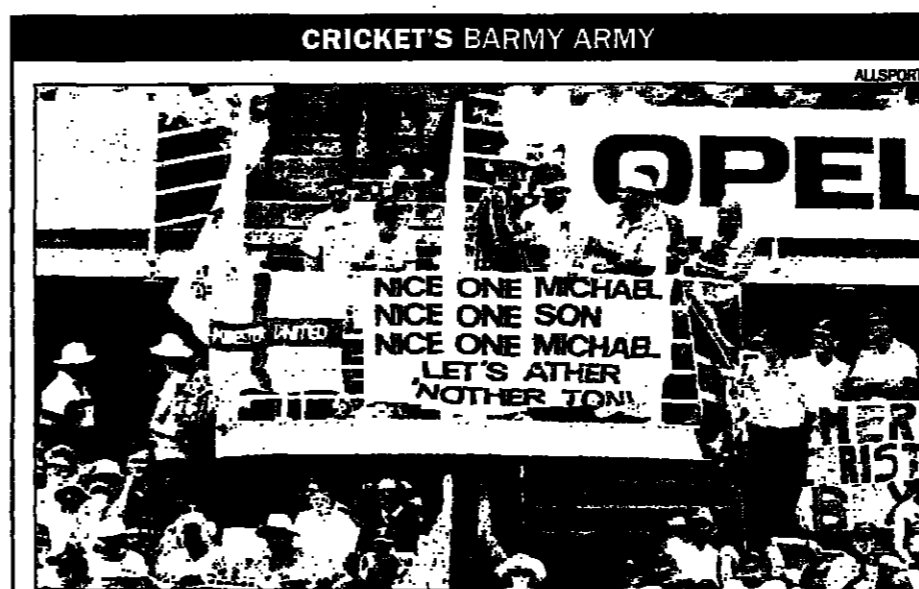
The fact that in recent years cricketers legends like Merv Hughes and Richie Richardson have turned out for Lashings C.C., a Kent-based pub team, sharply demonstrates that English village cricket is leaving its genteel stereotypes far behind. So far behind, indeed, that it is agitating even the storyline of *The Archers*. The Ambridge cricket team is having rather a poor season, and despite the rival attractions of the World Cup on television, extra net practice is being laid on for all those who failed to come up to scratch last Saturday. This does not please the entire team, some of whom are not so committed to victory as their captain. The

Fierce passions are changing the placid face of village cricket, says Jonathan Rice

The opening batsman steps back from the wicket to look at the field before settling down to his innings. He glances uneasily at the bowler. The bristling handlebar moustache, the chilling glare, the barely contained rage, the pawing of the ground, the steam from the nostrils — he looks like a slightly bulkier version of that Australian who terrorised England's finest Test batsmen just a few seasons ago.

The first ball rears up angrily from the uneven village wicket and flashes past the batsman's unhelmeted head. He realises with horror that it really is Merv Hughes bowling at him. This is the harsh, unforgiving world of 1990s village cricket where men play to win. Forget the greensward of old England, speckled with men dressed all in white, moving in gentle rhythm to the sound of leather on willow. The man who is elegantly hoisting your best off-breaks into the surrounding countryside was captain of the West Indies. He even has a stand named after him in Antigua's test cricket ground.

# From gentle game to a cut-throat



Cricketer's Barmy Army has borrowed its theme from the football terraces

BEER-swilling fans were punching their fists in the air, waving St George's Crosses and taunting rival supporters with chants of "You'll never beat the English." As tension mounted and the drinks flowed, a huge man wearing a Union Jack T-shirt stepped forward. "Barmy Army! Barmy Army!" he cried, immediately joined in this chorus by several hundred voices.

Soon there were scuffles on the terraces. Police and security men were called in to break up the fights and lead away offenders — more than 100 people were arrested.

While this may sound like a description of football fans during the World Cup, these scenes actually took place before the tournament started during this summer's first Test against South Africa at Edgbaston. English cricket, as many who witnessed the unrest on the Eric Hollies Stand that day will testify, is

fast developing a hooligan following. The England and Wales Cricket Board has recognised the problem and is encouraging grounds to crack down on troublemakers — by not allowing people in with alcohol, closing bars in the afternoon and serving low-alcohol beer.

For the third Test, being held at Old Trafford today, a new policy has been introduced to eject noisy fans wearing fancy dress. "Drunken, loutish behaviour by a minority of fans has been spoiling the game for other supporters," said a spokesman for the ECB. "We think alcohol is mainly to blame and hope that by preventing people going to off-licences and then rolling in to watch the game stocked-up with beers we will keep things in hand."

Rowdy cricket fans were nicknamed the "Barmy Army" on the Ashes tour of Australia in 1994/95, when the Australian press seized on their chant, borrowed from the football terraces.

ship, a knockout competition for village cricket teams. A village was defined as "a rural community surrounded on all sides by open country and having a population of not more than twenty-five hundred people".

One might well debate how many places there are left in Britain "surrounded on all sides by open country", but all the same, last year, as every year for the past quarter of a century, more than 650 teams competed for the privilege of playing in the final at cricket's headquarters. That privilege, it seems, is worth stretching the rules for.

This is nothing new. The first village team to achieve fame was from Hambledon, Hampshire, in the latter years of the 18th century. Two things that Hambledon brought to its cricket still apply to the best village teams today.

First, few of its players were born and bred in the village (a far more significant fact in the 1700s than in the 1990s), and second, they were not playing for fun, they were playing, directly or indirectly, for money.

Hambledon's great success began with the patronage of the Rev Charles Powlett, the dissolute (and illegitimate) son of the third Duke of Bolton, who was the rector of the nearby parish of Ilichen Abbas. Powlett's particular pleasure was not cricket so much as gambling on cricket, and his purpose in becoming patron of the Hambledon club was to create a team which he could gamble on, and win.

In 1775, he bet heavily against his own side when it looked impossible that it could win against the might of Surrey, and he was furious when his captain, Richard Nyren, and his leading batsman, John Small, put together a match-winning partnership.

Nowadays, we would like to pretend village cricket is a much purer affair than it was two centuries ago. My village, Salthwood, is one of 60 village clubs in the Kent Village League, formed "with the object of playing village cricket in the spirit as it exists and as understood by all who play cricket within the aegis of the Club Cricket Conference."

Continued on page 3

**Phase Eight**  
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مكتبة الأصيل

# Anne Robinson



● IT IS easy to mock we residents of Kensington angrily opposed to a Diana Memorial Garden in front of Kensington Palace. Yes, yes, the noise, the people, the parking, the traffic and the bouquets left in their wrappers, but still the richest borough in the land. It is far more tricky to be out of sympathy with villagers in Brington on the edge of Althorp.

What, pray, have they done to deserve the pop concert, the coaches, the rubberneckers through the summer en route to the museum devoted to Diana's memory, and the massive change to their lives? And as a response to either Brington or Kensington it hardly helps for Earl Spencer or the Diana memorial committee to insist they are doing "what she would have wanted". And somehow imagine that since money gathered in her name is earmarked for "people on the margins of society" it'll become anyone to make a fuss about being invaded by tourists. Particularly as those

who claim to know her wishes live elsewhere than Kensington and Brington. While those of us who do, feel very marginalised indeed.

The point is traffic is traffic, noise is noise, sweet papers and ice-cream wrappers are sweet papers and ice-creams wrappers, coaches are coaches, cars are cars. They are not made any easier to bear because the individuals creating the intrusion have a nice caring motive. They cause exactly the same amount of nuisance as if they were heading for a new Sainsbury's Homebase or a Nicole Farhi discount sale. It is a day out. Fun, enjoyment, at someone's else expense.

● MEANWHILE Kensington presses on determinedly to oppose the Garden. Within hours of Gordon Brown announcing that it was still on the cards a flyer was being posted through letterboxes urging us to ring an 0891 number to register our protest. Curiously, when I did, a voice merely said my protest

had been counted. It did not confirm that I and the phone number were agreeing on the same thing. So, for all I know, I was ringing the Sun hotline and declaring continuing support for poor Glenn Hoddle. BT couldn't help me establish whose 0891 number I was ringing. Then Perrose, convinced I had got the wrong end of the stick (as husbands do), rang the number twice

more. So now, maybe, we have registered three times our love for the England manager, or perhaps our opposition to the single currency.

● HOTLINE aside, the experts being gathered to argue the threat to safety at tube stations and the likely traffic jams in Kensington if the Garden goes ahead will cause an embarrassing headache to a

government pledged to getting us out of our cars and on to public transport. So let me offer the Chancellor an alternative. A respectable slip road down which the whole foolish project could effortlessly slide. I cannot claim ownership of the idea. It goes to a fellow Kensington Gardens dog walker. It is that any permanent memorial — indeed, any Diana attraction —

should be in the Dome. Brilliant for business and, given the grasp on London geography of your average tourist, I doubt if many will mind Greenwich as a venue. Anyway, I think it is what she would have wanted.

● WHAT to wear to Wimbledon? On the day we went the forecast was showers, sunshine, occasional strong winds, temperatures dropping. So, ideally, I should have had three outfits. I settled for linen, with a mac. Perrose settled for leaving both his raincoat and umbrella in the car, which was handy when the heavens opened on Centre Court during the Sampras match and we rushed back to the members' enclosure for tea. A rare treat, and a markedly different atmosphere to those ghastly corporate tents where often tickets-to-die-for lie unused on a side table while guests continue to eat and drink. A club member told me in the past the empty corporate seats have caused such an embar-

arrassment when they were picked up by the cameras, that the club has shifted the allocations to less prominent parts of the main courts.

● THE other week I mentioned a builder who had lost a bag of tools and later received a call from a local Victim Support Group. Nansi Creer in Liphook says she reported some fish missing from her fish pond and, likewise, Victim Support sent someone to commiserate.

All this suggests that back at the police station a theft is noted and, whoosh!, zealous Victim Support members put their underpants over the leggings and, like Superman, fly to the rescue without checking the fine detail. In these days of computer technology surely the station sergeant could organise a box to tick to say a, you wish to grieve over your recent loss in private, and b, any volunteers with spare time should concentrate their efforts on helping to find the bastards who stole from you in the first place.



Cricketers at Ockley Surrey. The rules are simple, if you want a village cricket team to survive these days, it has to be a winning one. If it loses too often, the best players will drift away to seek a better standard of game elsewhere

## me to a cut-throat sport

Continued from page 2

Now there's a romantic definition of the spirit of cricket for you. One of the things we have to remember is that "the use of guest players (ie those not normally appearing for that side) shall be held to be a breach" of the rules of the competition.

We need a rule like this because ringers are nothing new in cricket, even at village level. W.G. Grace records in his autobiography that he played as a teenager with his brothers for Hanham in Gloucestershire against Bitton, "a village about a mile away" who "knowing that we had a good eleven, secured some strangers, including one or two of the best men from Bristol, to help them." Even then, the days of the blacksmith, the curate and the village bobby as pillars of the cricket team were long gone.

Woodmanote, a village in Hampshire, was thrown out of the National Village Knock-out in 1996 after it had reached the last 32 of the competition, for "not playing village cricket in the spirit that we know it". They were using players from the cream of the Hampshire league sides, some of whom — were living more than 20 miles from Woodmanote.

One would have thought that devotion to duty in being willing to travel so far for a game would have been well

within the spirit of village cricket, but they made the awful mistake of winning rather too easily and too often.

One of the difficulties of employing too many ringers is that the quality of the average village wicket is not good enough to support fast bowling, nor to allow too many free-flowing batsmen to prosper.

Not all pitches yield the sort of problems that happened at Alkborough near Scunthorpe earlier this summer, when the club's heavy roller sank on the square and the groundsman could not get a tractor near enough to pull it out.

But we village cricketers smile when we see Nasser Hussain bow to a shooter in a Test match because we would never have been out.

We would have got our bats in the way. We would have been expecting it, he ball to do the unexpected. We might also have been hoping that the umpire, being one of our own team waiting for a bat, would have given us not out.

Village cricketers are just as good as Test cricketers at disputing umpiring decisions, and we have the huge advantage of a lack of TV replays to point out who was right.

Max Creese of Frinton is an example of the new breed of weekend cricketer. Last summer against Maidenhead he managed to be no-balled by

both umpires at the same time for both throwing and overstepping the mark, decisions he did not wholeheartedly agree with.

Later, in a match against Halsstead, he had to be escorted from the field when given out stumped. That's the kind of never-say-die spirit we are seeing more of these days.

After nearly three decades of the Village Cricket Championship, an elite of the best village clubs has emerged. Clubs like Freuchie in Scotland, St Fagan's near Cardiff, Troon in Cornwall and the current holders, Caldly from the Wirral, have dominated the competition (Caldly, incidentally, won their title on the day of Princess Diana's death: the game went ahead as planned after two minutes' silence) and inevitably, the best cricketers in the area want to play for a winning side. So they get stronger while the clubs around them do not.

They do not play ringers — they have no need to — but they are hardly village clubs in "the spirit that we know it", any more (or any less) than Woodmanote or Hambledon were and are.

At St Fagan's, for example, the ground has advertising hoardings all around the perimeter, something that we cannot aspire to at Saltwood.

All the leading villages have practice sessions which players need to turn up for if they want to be picked, and many clubs will seriously discourage their star players from taking holidays in the summer.

Just as the best clubs get stronger, so the clubs that lose too often see their players drift away. Then the club dies: so if you want a village cricket team at all, these days it has to be a winning one.

At Saltwood, we did not believe in extra net practice even after several heavy defeats (a state of affairs that is usually reached by mid-May) on the basis that so few of our team ever play good shots or bowl unplayable balls, so it would be a pity to waste any of them in the nets. But times have changed.

Every Tuesday evening is net practice. Not that it does us much good. We still managed to lose last Sunday by four runs, but at least it was not because the other side was better than us.

It was because we have perfected the proper England style collapse, involving silly run outs and several straight balls being missed. Even in Saltwood we manage to ape the professionals.

● Jonathan Rice is the author of *Curiosities of Cricket* (Pavilion Books, £4.99); his next book, *Start Of Play*, is published by Pion Books this autumn at £14.99

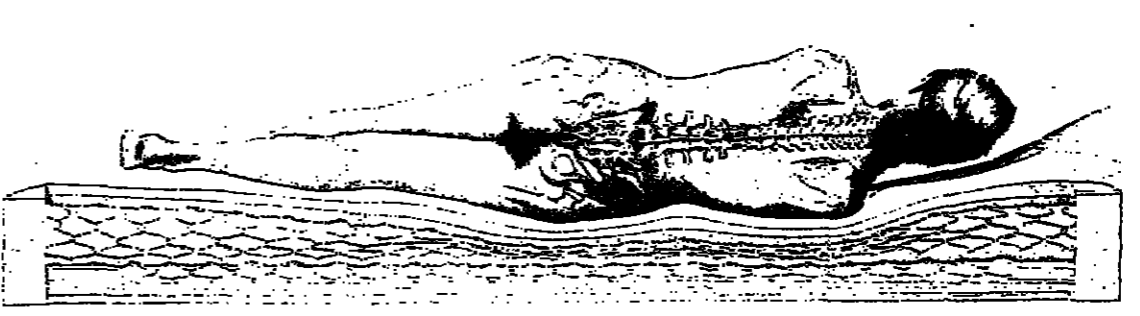


In recent years cricketing legend Merv Hughes has turned out for Lashings Cricket Club, a pub-based team in Kent

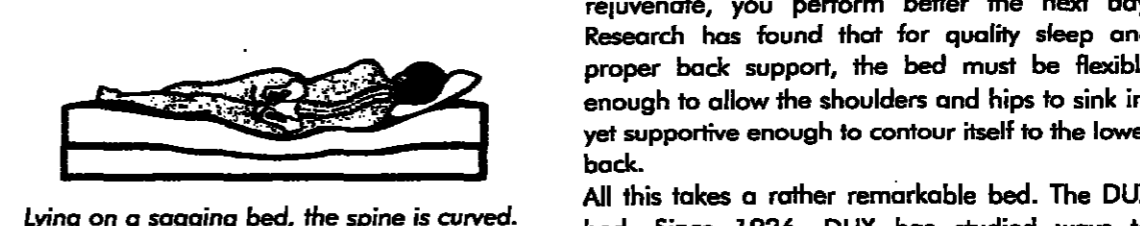
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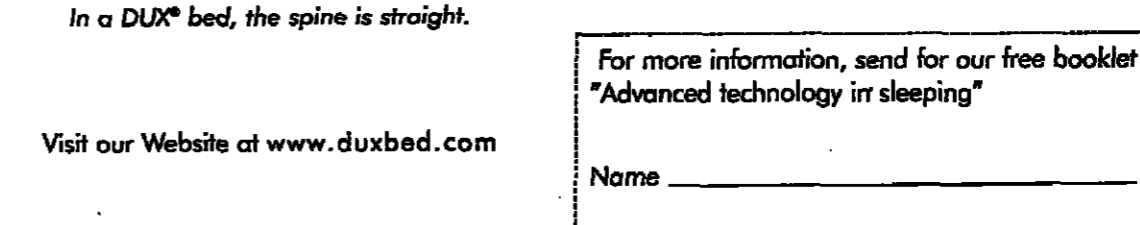
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# Champion of the lipstick camp

Shopping and buying make-up should be celebrated, the "new" feminist Fay Weldon tells Lesley Downer

These days, it would seem, Fay Weldon is quite happy to see her image as a feminist icon crashing around her. Rape? One day she is quoted as saying one thing, the next day something else, but certainly when it comes to shopping she has no qualms about confessing to a truly un-PC love of it.

"Shopping is kind of like eating," she says. "It's a problem area. Women have eating problems and they have shopping problems. They shop too much or they feel they shop too much."

As for herself, "It's not too bad. I don't have incredible numbers of shoes which I never wear."

Weldon's shop of choice is not some exclusive little cult outlet selling politically correct items and known only to the cognoscenti, but is Selfridges, the elephantine department store which has dominated the western end of London's Oxford Street for 90 years, ever since an American entrepreneur, Gordon Selfridge, founded it in 1909.

"I just love department stores," says Ms Weldon in her fluency, beautifully modulated voice. "The way they shift everything around and the skill with which they do it. Selfridges has solid merit. It's been here a long time. It's an institution, rather like the House of Lords. I've been coming here for 20 years on and off. No longer than that, since just after the war, since I was a child. And you've sort of seen it through into the new world, into the millennium."

Hunkered down in the cosmetics department, she fingers the lipsticks. She is a bit like the Queen Mother, regal but warm, with plenty of the common touch; though, unlike the Queen Mum, she wears a battered leather jacket and a rather slinky black dress.

## my favourite shop

What she really likes is not so much spending money as simply walking around the store, looking at people and things, marvelling at the astonishing things which people choose to buy.

"I love all this beauty stuff, this impossible number of makes and kinds and ranges of lipstick," she says in tones of amused wonder. "How is it possible to get so many shades of lipstick? Would you really want a grey lipstick? Somebody somewhere wants a grey lipstick. I like to know this type of thing."

As Ms Weldon puts it, she "fell into writing". Having walked out on her husband in the naughty Sixties, she was making a living writing television commercials, which included the immortal slogans "Go to work on an egg" and "Unzip a banana", when it occurred to her that a television drama was "a long commercial selling ideas not products".

Ever since, her output has included plays, film scripts (*The Life and Loves of a She-Devil* which starred Roseanne Barr and Meryl Streep) and 22 novels, among them *Puffball* and *The Cloning of Joanna May*, which focus on the lives of women and their (almost without exception) weak and appalling husbands.

The latest, *Big Women*, the story of four women who start a feminist publishing house called Medusa (not utterly dissimilar from Virago Press) is now on our screens as a TV drama series.

For a novelist who has traced the course of women's life in Britain from dungareed feminism to lipstick post-feminism to Girl Power, what better place to gather material about women and their lives and what makes a woman a woman than a department store and, in particular, the institution that is Selfridges?

In the past, Ms Weldon points out, women created their identity to fit the person they married; chameleon-like, they took on their husband's social standing and aspirations.

"We were born to change and take on this other role. That's why you have young girls to look after your children, because they're not sealed into a particular identity. But nowadays, women create an identity by shopping. We define ourselves by what we buy."

In the spectrum of feminism, from Germaine Greer's HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy)-free zone to Suzanne Moore's lipstick variety, Ms Weldon is unabashedly in the lipstick camp.

"Shopping is to do with adornment which is genetically part of female make-up," she says. "You put a little girl on a desert island and she sticks a flower in her hair."

"I'm not going to deny femininity just because I am a feminist. Femininity is the compensation for not having any freedom. Charming and attracting men was the only way women had to survive in the pre-feminist days and so it was frowned upon by feminists."

"But women can now spend their money and if they like this kind of thing, they like this kind of thing. Though I don't have pots and pots and pots and pots of make-up, unused, with cigarette butts stubbed out in them..."

Dominating Selfridges's new atrium is a sinewy bronze statue modelled on the 1920s American flapper Josephine Baker — the Big Woman personified, knobs and all.

"This is the age of the robot and the woman," says the ever- outspoken Ms Weldon, gazing up at it admiringly.

"It seems to me so much truer to the spirit of the age than the millennium figure. This celebrates the new millennium as a shopper, rather than as somebody who doesn't have a brain, who represents the next millennium as mindless."

● *Big Women*, a four-part drama by Fay Weldon, is on Channel 4 on Thursday; her book is published by HarperCollins and Flamingo, £12.99.



Fay Weldon with the statue in Selfridges. "It is truer to the spirit of the age than the millennium figure"

## GADGETS

LONG country rambles are a blissful way to spend a day — except when you have to lug around essential provisions such as bottles of drinking water.

The solution to that problem is the Pres2Pure water bottle. You can fill the bottle with water from streams and rivers and its carbon filter will make it safe to drink.

The bottle, developed by aerospace, medical and water purification specialists, is designed to improve water three ways: aesthetically, biologically and chemically. It is said to filter out chlorine, silt, sand and other impurities as well as bacteria, toxic chemicals, detergents, pesticides, harmful industrial and agricultural waste, lead and other heavy metals.

To test these claims, Weekend sent the bottle to the men in white coats at the lab of a London university. They gave it the thumbs up, agreeing that it did indeed perform as promised by producing "above average" drinking water.

The filter screws into the top of the squeeze plastic bottle and is good for about 1,500 refills — the equivalent of about 200 gallons. In practice, with regular use you should replace the filter about every six months.

WHEN YOU are camping, or staying at the home of a friend who is pushed for beds, the sleeping bag comes into its own. But how often do you hear of sleeping bags being cleaned? Rarely.

Exeter's Asia Trading has come up with the Silk Sleeping Bag for those anxious about such bedding hygiene.

The lightweight silk bag can be used as a liner since it slips easily into any regular sleeping bag. It has a pillow pocket and air ventilation ties.

In hotter countries, you can even sleep in just the silk bag — which breathes in the heat but offers warmth should it turn chilly.

The bag, which weighs 160g, packs into its own small pocket measuring 6in by 7in.

It is available in royal and navy blues, red and green.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● Pres2Pure water bottle, £14.99, from Pyramid Products (01623 421277); Silk Sleeping Bag, £24.99, from Asia Trading (01392 277276).



"Selfridges has solid merit. It's an institution," says Ms Weldon

## SHOPWATCH

Waterstone's, the booksellers, offers a free service for bibliophiles. If you are desperate to track down an out-of-print title, its Booksearch service will track second-hand bookshops and dealers for a copy, contact you with the price, then send you the book direct. Call 01892 522700 for details.

The Anything Left-Handed Shops celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. They are still selling items such as left-handed scissors and can-openers, but innovations include a left-hander's computer mouse (£79). Call 0181-770 3722 for a mail-order catalogue and details.

Baygen's wind-up radio is the last word in green chic. The new translucent version (£59.95) comes in clear or jelly colours so you can see the wind-up generator, plus a solar panel that guarantees unlimited playing time while the sun beats down (0800 731052).

Diverimenti, the serious cooks' shop, is taking bookings now for its food market trips this September. Choose from a jaunt around Billingsgate fish market, then back to the shop to cook sushi, or a one-day Paris trip, tailor-made for foodies. For details, call 0171-581 8065.



Futon's Bed in a Bag

Futon Company's Bed in a Bag, a single futon stashed in a range of bright canvas duffel bags, is essential kit for kids on the move over and costs £69. Call 0171-736 9190 for your nearest Futon Company branch.

UPDATE: For impromptu Fourth of July parties and great authentic American foods dive into Jerry's Home Stores' new branch (0171-229 4055) on the first floor of Whiteley's shopping centre in Bayswater, west London... The Monogrammed Linen Shop, home to exquisite embroidered linens, has expanded next door. Find it at 168-170 Walton Street, London SW3 (0171-589 4033).

JUDITH WILSON

## TOP OF THE FORMS

### YOUNG BRITISH DESIGNERS

**ABOVE:** Inexpensive and elegantly designed, the bamboo knife and fork set, £26, is by Patrick Laing (0181-245 3153) from Brighton University (exhibiting at "New Designers")

**BELOW:** The "50s Fusion Bowl", £65, by Louise Skinner (0116 2991925) from De Montfort University depicts a sliced orange on clear white and orange glass

**BELOW:** Silicost porcelain "Dresses" ornaments, £50 each, by Jacqui Chanarin (01273 609 564) from Brighton University (exhibiting at "New Designers")

**ABOVE:** From Buckinghamshire College, Glen Pratt's stand in stack-laminated maple, is £1,500. Call 01448 750 491 (exhibiting at "New Designers")

**RIGHT:** Glazed ceramic stools with a textured top and aluminium legs, £450, are by Cath Carroll (0171-274 4366) from Central St Martins College (exhibiting at "New Designers")

**RIGHT:** "Always Shoot From the Hip" is a blue ceramic condom holder, £70, with a plastic top by Henrietta Flood (02958 479542) from Central St Martins College (exhibiting at "New Designers")

**ABOVE:** Giles Watts (01273 694016; 01304 613772) from Brighton University, can produce his silicone rubber thermos flasks, 250 x 90mm, in a range of translucent colours — blue, pink, clear, orange, green for £45 each (exhibiting at "New Designers")

**RIGHT:** These dried food containers, £25 (150x90mm), are made in clear acrylic and have a handy detachable pouring spout. By Alex Kimbers from Brighton University (01243 371314), (exhibiting at "New Designers")

**LEFT:** The recycling "Sweet" food preparation station, £400 (900cm high, 500wide, 400deep) by Angus Stuart Kerr from the Glasgow School of Art. Call 0141-334 3349

**LEFT:** The "Voyeur" chair, £380, by Tim Krapp (07970 191718) from Parnham College, is made of beech laminates, leather and stainless steel (exhibiting at "Raw Materials", 0171-323 2208)

**LEFT:** "Whole" chair, £2,500, is seen here in natural cherry but can be commissioned in other woods. By David Landess (0171-684 9337) from the Royal College of Art

**Photographs by Des Jensen**

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Design 98** is being held tomorrow at De Montfort University Exhibition Centre, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester, from 10am-6pm.

**New Designers** is being held at The Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 (0171-359 3535). The exhibition is split into two parts. Part One July 9-12 includes furniture, ceramics, jewellery, glass, industrial design, silversmithing, metalwork, product design and interior design. From July 9, 11am-6pm; July 10 and 11 from 11am-7pm; July 12, 11am-4pm. Part Two is from July 16-19 and includes graphic design, illustration, textiles, fashion, multimedia, accessories, photography, packaging and advertising. Open July 16, 11am-6pm; July 17 and 18, 11am-7pm; July 19, 11am-4pm.

**Parnham College's Raw Materials** exhibition is at The Gallery in Cork Street, 28 Cork Street, W1 (0171-437 2812), today from 10am-6pm.

**The Royal College of Art's Design, Communications and Humanities Show** is being held at the Royal College of Art, Hensington Gore, SW7 (0171-590 4444) today and tomorrow from 10am-6pm and Monday 10am-9pm.

**Times readers are offered two tickets for the price of one to the New Designers exhibition from July 9 to 12 and 16 to 19 at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 (0171-359 3535) plus £1 off the cost of a programme. Simply cut out this coupon and present it at the door (Tickets £6; concessions £4)**

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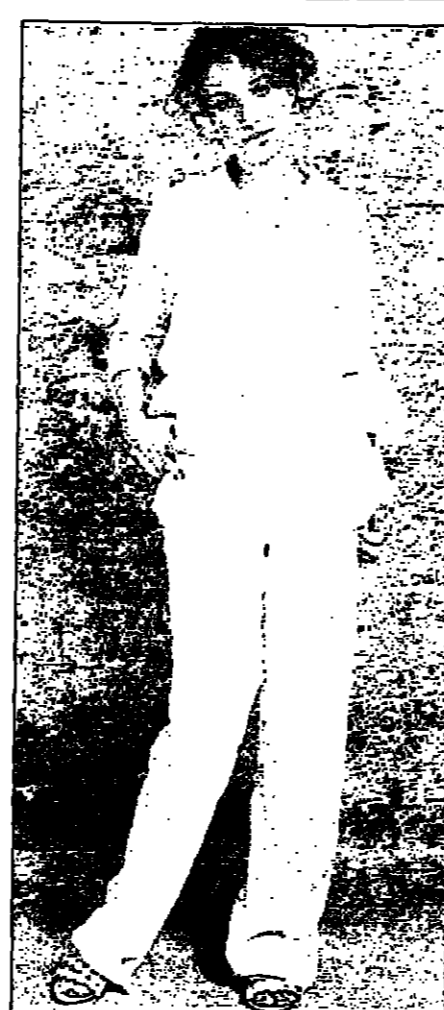


**GADGETS**

country rambles are a way to spend a day when you have to buy essential provisions in bottles of drinking solution to that problem. Pres2Pure water bottle in fill the bottle with warm streams and then carbon filter will make to drink.

bottle developed by a medical and water purifier specialists. It is designed to improve water quality chemically. It is made out of chlorine safe material. It has other features: as hot as 100°C, toxic chemicals, alcohol, pesticides, harmful to health and agricultural and other uses.

Test these claims. We sent the bottle to the main white water at the top of the mountain. The bottle returned it did not do anything. It is promising to provide safe water. The bottle is available at the average price of £12.99. The bottle is available at the average price of £12.99.



LEFT: Rib vest, £12, pack of three, Muji, 187 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-323 2208). Grey dress, £254, Krizia, 25 Conduit Street, W1 (0171-491 4987). RIGHT: white vest, £12, Muji as before. Sheer muslin shirt, £161, Strenesse, Selfridges (0171-823 3799). Linen trousers, £110, MaxMara, 32 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-287 3434). White flower sandals, £45, Ravel (0171-436 3126)

# Get layered for summer



Sheer dress, £80; pedal pushers, £60, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1, and branches (0171-399 7200). Pink vest, £19.99, Morgan, 393 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-383 2888)



Nude chiffon velvet-patterned camisole, £169; matching skirt, £244, Betty Jackson, 311 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7884)



Nude and black sheer double-layer stretch top, £49.99. Nude satin pedal pushers, £49.99, Kookai, 123d Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 4411)

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For once, the so-called British summer has found its fashion look. No more shivering in slivers of fabric designed for a hot sun. No more blue-white skin in tiny strappy dresses and skirts that only work with a golden tan. This year, designers have cottoned on to the fact that the sun doesn't always shine — and they are offering us a chance to wrap up, or at least layer up.

The layered look pioneered by Calvin Klein and Helmut Lang last year was a feature of all the catwalk shows for spring/summer, in the lightest see-through fabrics, from fine organza to stiff netting. It is not only about putting different fabrics together to create varied prints and textures, but about mixing colours and shades to add variety to outfits. This can mean mixing three different shaded vests on a summer's day for extra colour, slipping a contrasting slip beneath a lace shift for evening, or wearing the sheerest shirt over a densely textured camisole. The object is to create an outfit that is as



Transparently summer looks from Calvin Klein

interesting in texture as it is in cut and colour.

This year's looks are multi-layered and strapped. Bras, shirts, straps and vest straps all lie side by side on bare shoulders; slip peek decorately from the bottom of skirts, creating volume as well as decorative interest. And for the final top-up, little chiffon sheer sweaters are added for warmth and extra cover.

The key summer trend has been picked up by all the high street chains, which are

stocking layers from top to toe. There are double-layer vest tops (see Three of a Kind, below), lacy skirts (from Warehouse, Monsoon and Next), see-through coats (M&S stocks a useful black sheer dress coat, £60, casual for daytime or over the shoulders in the evening) and sheer cardigans (Kookai, Oasis, Whistles).

Despite the propensity of some British celebrities to grin and bare it (Liz Hurley flashing her spangled undies or Emma Noble showing all her major assets at the Baffes), most of us are modest about showing off our flesh.

At last designers are allowing us to look decent, while still showing off that gorgeous lacy underwear we haven't had the chance to bare. And, most importantly in these grisly summer climes, to keep warm.

LISA GRAINGER  
Photographs by ANNA STEVENSON.  
Hair by Craig Taylor at Time for Martyn Maxey. Make-up by Charlotte Day at Rocket using Cosmetics à la Carte.  
Stylist: Amandip Uppal



THREE OF A KIND  
LEFT: Sheer top with silver band, £85, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-590 6200)  
CENTRE: Pink and white sheer double-layer cami, £25, Warehouse, 96 King's Road, SW3 (0171-278 3491)  
RIGHT: White stripe and plain double-layer vest, £29.99, Morgan, 393 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-383 2888)

**SALE**

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During the Summer Sale our entire collection of exclusive international brand and designer furniture is reduced to save you 20% to 35% off the original prices. Come and see the best of what's new in home furnishings, and let our free interior design service help you put the pieces together:

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High quality hand made furniture

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International designer from the top Italian brand

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# Part 4: 20 wines under £12.50

### THE PERFECT CUCUMBER SANDWICH

own cucumber has a fine texture and one that is often swamped by ingredients. If you use a locally grown cucumber, you will find this recipe a treat.

### REDHITS for four

of sandwiches: eight of good quality white bread, sliced, salted, pepper, cucumber, sea salt, pepper.

### METHOD

With a good knife, remove the skin from the cucumber. Halve the cucumber lengthwise and discard the seeds and pips.

### PREPARE

Lightly salt and drain the cucumber for an hour. Wash and dry the cucumber. Cut the cucumber into thin slices. Put the cucumber in a bowl with the dressing.

### ASSEMBLE

Put the cucumber slices on each of four slices of bread. Add the dressing and a slice of cheese. Press down firmly and cut into four sandwiches.

### LOW CURD

Not quite in the same league as the superlative 1995 vintage, yet the more I taste the 1996 red burgundies, the more impressed I am.

### 1996 Savigny du Domaine

Domaine du Château de Meursault, France. Safeway, £9.99

### 1996 Château de RocheMorin

Pessac-Léognan, France. André Lurton, Victoria Wine Cellars, £8.99

### 1996 Saint-Joseph, Cuvée Côte-Diane

Cave de Saint-Désirat, France. Safeway, £8.99

### 1996 Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot

Clare Valley, Australia. Oddbins, £7.99

### 1995 Knappstein Cabernet

France, South Australia. Safeway, Booths and Victoria Wine, £7.99

### 1996 Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot

Clare Valley, Australia. Oddbins, £7.99

## STAR RED

1995 Brampton Cabernet Sauvignon, South Africa, Lea & Sandeman (0171-376 4767), £7.64 today not £8.50; Lay & Wheeler, £7.99

For years I have struggled to appreciate the rough and ready Brampton wines, the second label from the Barlow family who own the beautiful Cape Dutch homestead of Rustenberg nestled beneath the Simonsberg mountains. So, wearily, I allowed Patrick Sandeman from L&S to pour me a glass of this. A revelation! The new, well-travelled Kiwi winemaker Rod Easthope, who trained at Australia's Roseworthy, has produced a perfectly proportioned 100 per cent cabernet red whose slug of cedar and sandalwood-scented new oak for once does not overwhelm the sweet blackcurrant fruit below.

## STAR WHITE

1996 Henschke, Louis Semillon, Eden Valley, Australia. Lay & Wheeler, Gosbecks Park, Colchester, £9.52

Prue Henschke (the viticulturist) and Stephen (the oenologist) are two of the great new classic wine names of Australia producing astonishingly good wine. For once the whites here are as consistently good as the reds, with thrilling, complex flavours that cannot be forgotten. This juicy, buttered toast, pineapple, apricot, green-gage and lemon curd-redolent wine was named in honour of Louis Henschke who ran the family's famous Hill of Grace vineyard for 40 years. This white benefits from combining 45-year-old vines with a cool Australian vintage and ageing in French-oak hogsheads.

## REDS



1995 Château de RocheMorin, Pessac-Léognan, France. André Lurton, Victoria Wine Cellars, £8.99

"Grand vin de Graves" shouts this label and so it is. The bordeaux commune of Graves is renowned for its dry, bricky, cerebral claret that modern wine drinkers are apt to struggle with. No claret bibber will have any trouble slugging this one down, an André Lurton crafted a 60 per cent cabernet sauvignon to 40 per cent merlot blend from a superb bordeaux year, whose very fine herby, green pepper-scented bouquet leads on to a juicy, chocolate palate that is hard to resist.

1996 Savigny du Domaine, Domaine du Château de Meursault, France. Safeway, £9.99

Not quite in the same league as the superlative 1995 vintage, yet the more I taste the 1996 red burgundies, the more impressed I am. The Château de Meursault has vineyards dotted throughout the Côte de Beaune and as

such is well placed to get the best from each. Try this splendid juicy, velvety, burgundy with a platter of cold roast beef and ripe brie.

1996 Saint-Joseph, Cuvée Côte-Diane, Cave de Saint-Désirat, France. Safeway, £8.99

In its 300th year of trading BB & R continues to shine at what it does best: selling to the gentry pukka clarets of which this is a prime example. From the same bordeaux stables that supply the company with its Good Ordinary Claret, the '93 vintage, this property is situated in the centre of Pauillac close to a famous first-growth Château Latour. This one actually surpasses the '95. Relish its rich, plummy, velvety style, with the first mature gamey scents of age creeping in on the finish, with grilled meats.

1996 Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot, Clare Valley, Australia. Oddbins, £7.99

Discerning wine drinkers may pass this dearily labelled red

burgundy by as they peruse Waitrose's richly endowed wine shelves. That would be a pity as within lies a first-class red burgundy whose sweet, ripe, smoky, velvety style oozes with cherry-stashed fruit. Just the job for a large plate of summer charcuterie and cheeses.

1995 Knappstein Cabernet Merlot, France, South Australia. Safeway, Booths and Victoria Wine, £7.99

Yet another tasty example of the less well regarded '93 vintage which was damaged by pre-harvest rain. Angludet's vines obviously recovered well from the deluge, as this splendid '93 is textbook margaux: all fragrant feminine fruit with a delicate, savoury, perfumed style stemming from a classic mix of 55 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 35 per cent merlot and 5 per cent each of cabernet franc and petit verdot. This great red bordeaux is a fitting tribute to the winemaker Peter Sichel who died earlier this year.

1995 Knappstein Cabernet Merlot, France, South Australia. Safeway, Booths and Victoria Wine, £7.99

Why Tim Knappstein left the Clare Valley region for pastures new is a mystery. Still, Knappstein's loss is the gain of Petaluma and Andrew Hardy, the talented new winemaker here. Clare continues to produce some of the most stylish reds and whites in

track where one Annie Wayman and her horse-drawn cart got stuck in the mud. David O'Leary, the winemaker here, certainly knows what's what and was once responsible for Hardy's top drops like the Eileen Hardy range. Most New World winemakers tend to gild the lily but O'Leary's finely tuned cabernet merlot blend made from old, low-yielding quallal vines, is heaped high with elegant, sweet, creamy cassis fruit. Irresistible!

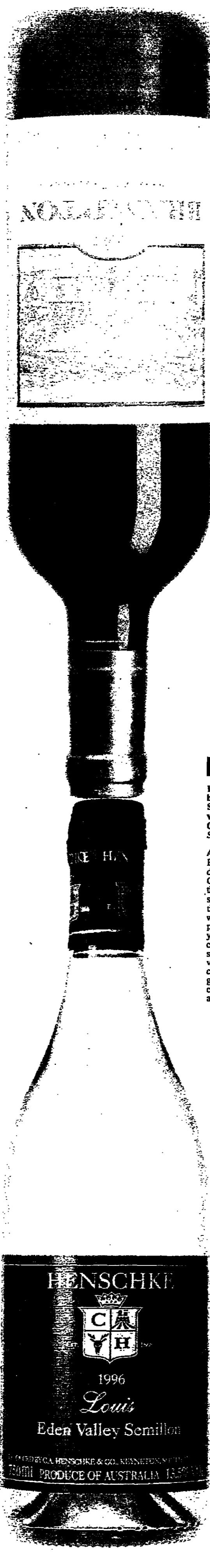
1996 Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot, Clare Valley, Australia. Oddbins, £7.99

Understandably bigger, bolder and burlier than the Annie's Lane cabernet merlot blend and with a generous 14 per cent slug of alcohol, this shiraz is most definitely not for the faint-hearted red-wine drinker. However, the enthusiasm among us will relish its gloriously ripe, spicy, plummy, peppery fruit heavily scented with blackberries and loganberries — the hallmarks of old, low-yielding shiraz. Just the ticket with blackened barbecued fare.

South Australia. For years I have had a soft spot for this voluptuous, dusky and unusual 100 per cent cabernet franc red. The 1995 vintage, which is the second that Andrew Hardy has made here, is a typically dusky-musky, spicy, raspberry-charged tour de force.

1996 Annie's Lane Shiraz, Clare Valley, Australia. Oddbins, £7.99

Understandably bigger, bolder and burlier than the Annie's Lane cabernet merlot blend and with a generous 14 per cent slug of alcohol, this shiraz is most definitely not for the faint-hearted red-wine drinker. However, the enthusiasm among us will relish its gloriously ripe, spicy, plummy, peppery fruit heavily scented with blackberries and loganberries — the hallmarks of old, low-yielding shiraz. Just the ticket with blackened barbecued fare.



**HENSCHKE**  
1996  
*Louis*  
Eden Valley Semillon  
PRODUCE OF AUSTRALIA

**JANE MACQUITTY**  
**100**  
**BEST SUMMER WINES**

Spend a little more and you won't be disappointed, says Jane MacQuitty

## WHITES



1997 Chablis Premier Cru, Vaillon, Domaine Vocoret & Fils, France. Majestic Wine Warehouses, £9.99

A perfect premier cru chablis whose greeny-gold hue sings with elegant, leafy fruit and makes a fine summer aperitif and accompaniment to fish. Extra layers of seductive, musky, grapey perfume here lead to a rich vegetal, musky palate.

1997 Ponsilly-Fumé, Domaine Mathilde de Favray, France. Marks & Spencer, £8.99

Quentin David and his son Hugues jointly produce this glorious pouilly from their own sauvignon blanc vines. Expect fine floral, green bean-scented fruit with a rich, herbaceous, lemony finish. This zesty, verdant white makes a mouth-watering summer aperitif, or serve with seafood or fish.

1995 Schwarzhofberger Riesling Spätlese, Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt, Germany. Sainsbury's, £7.99

Am I the only person in Britain who drinks top-drawer single-estate German wines such as this? The von Kesselstatt Mosel estate continues to supply the UK with great wine at low prices. This greeny-yellow mosel from the celebrated heavy slate-soil Schwarzhofberger vineyards is full of luscious waxy, peach and green apple finesse, complete with a classic, aged, petrolly finish.

1996 Shaw and Smith Reserve Chardonnay, Australia. Liberty Wines, (0171-720 5350), £12.49; Swig (0171-431 4412); Australian Wine Club (0800 856 2004), £12.50

This hand-harvested barrel-fermented and aged chardonnay is making waves in Europe. Relish its restrained floral violet-scented perfume and finish.

1996 Clos du Château, Bourgogne Blanc, Domaine du Château de Puligny Montrachet, France. Oddbins, £9.99

Proof positive that good-value white burgundy exists. 1995 and 1996 are star back-to-back burgundy vintages with the '96 plumper and richer than the stately '95 but no less impressive. What you get is a rich, ripe, hazelnut and glacé-fruit-charged, creamy Côte d'Or chardonnay.

1997 Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand. Booths, £8.99; Majestic Wine and Oddbins, £8.99

1997 Ponsilly-Fumé, Domaine Mathilde de Favray, France. Marks & Spencer, £8.99

1996 Serecin Chardonnay, Marlborough, New Zealand. John Armit Wines, 5 Royalty Studios, 105 Lancaster Rd, London W11, £10.83

Enjoy film-maker Michael Serecin's French oak barrique-fermented and aged chardonnay blessed with a fine floral, apple scent and steely, herbaceous palate with creamy white meat dishes.

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IN FRANCE,  
A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE  
CANARD-DUCHÈNE  
IS OPENED  
EVERY 10 SECONDS

CHAMPAGNE  
SANS FORMALITÉ

Photographs by DES JENSON

**NEXT WEEK**  
Jane MacQuitty chooses the 20 best summer wines for under £20

'Our chicken clambered on to visitors' feet when they sat down, tucking its head inside their trouser legs'

# A meeting of mind games

Yorkshire farmer Brian Hibbert was recently taken to court for allowing one of his dairy cows to drop a pat on the A640. Although the case was ultimately dismissed, the fact that it got as far as the magistrates' court is ominous. One can't help wondering what other farm animal behaviour will be pounced on next.

It's not even as if leaving a small pile of dung is the worst thing a cow can possibly do. They're far more inventive than that, as anyone who's seen a group of young heifers attempting to have a mass single-sex orgy will testify. It can be quite unsettling, too, to be woken in the early hours of the morning because a doting cow has momentarily mistook her calf round the other side of a bramble bush, and is calling out to it in a style reminiscent of the Q&A docking in heavy fog.

It also seems quite natural to cows to want to play irritating mind games with any human beings they meet. What rambler hasn't found himself, in a lonely stretch of countryside, being followed at uncomfortably close quarters by a herd of inquisitive cows? I don't know anyone

who enjoys playing this bovine version of "Grandmother's Footsteps", but every cow I've ever come across has been wild about it. Some of them even add fiendish refinements, such as *trisking around playfully* when you attempt to break up the game and run for the nearest hedge.

Given these quite normal quirks, it won't be long before some other hapless farmer is up in court for allowing his livestock to inflict psychological torture or to cause post-traumatic stress disorder.

The possibilities for court action are endless, because animal behaviour is so odd. Sometimes their antics even take farmers by surprise. We owned a pig which, at first light on misty mornings, raced round the farm and pointlessly bit off, and spat out, every mushroom that had sprung up during the night.

And the things animals learn to do as a

result of their contact with farmers are even more disconcerting. For years we had a pet chicken that would clamber on to visitors' feet, whenever they sat down, and tuck its head inside their trouser legs.

More recently, the carthorses have developed an alarming habit. Because my husband greets them by affectionately scratching them on the rear, they now assume that anyone they see entering their pastures is going to perform the same delightful service. So total strangers, taking their dogs for a stroll, are likely to see two large animals

## DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

galloping backwards towards them, waving their buttocks in greeting.

Of course, this usually doesn't matter, because people who live in the country accept strange animal behaviour as a matter of course. I've noticed that the more delicious a bird or animal is to eat, the more tolerant a rural community will be towards its foibles. But inedible creatures are a different matter: foxes are dispatched without mercy, and if your dog behaves badly, your neighbours will harass you until you tie it up or get rid of it. Unfortunately, newcomers from the

town have an entirely opposite set of values. They're indulgent about naughty dogs, but annoyed by things that country folk are accustomed to, such as cockerels crowing before dawn, pigs screaming for their breakfast, or sheep wandering dreamily down the middle of the road.

For some reason, too, a dislike of natural barnyard behaviour is always linked to a faulty assessment of its underlying dangers. Town people can take horrifying risks. I've often seen parents, at farm parks, holding their children above pens of sows and piglets, unaware of the fact that, if they lost their grip, their offspring would be snapped up and eaten in an instant.

Because we keep heavy horses we tend to become especially irritable whenever we hear the soubriquet "gentle giants". Whoever coined this phrase must have

known as little about carthorses as the chap who thought up "quiet as a mouse" did about rodents. How can anything that weighs a ton, wears vast steel shoes and is honestly incapable of noticing whether it is standing on your foot or not, be described as gentle? And that's the sweet-tempered ones. Some of the heavy horses we've come across, bred for height and good looks rather than temperament, could more accurately be termed "homicidal ogres".

Yet the syrupy gentle-giant label continues to stick, and is responsible for encouraging the public to behave in the most reckless manner. They'll hold babies up just a horsehair's breadth from a heavy horse's teeth and allow toddlers to wander about near their hooves. They seem to think that the best place to park a pushchair is that convenient little gap between the gentle giant's rear and the spiky implement it happens to be attached to.

Somewhat, I can't see the chasm between town and country sensibilities ever being bridged. We're all just going to have to get used to spending a lot more time in court.

# If only Swampy could help us now

The initials WBB stand for Watts Blake Bearn, a clay extraction company with operations in the United States, the Asia-Pacific region, mainland Europe — and at Teigngrace in Devon. To the alliance of villagers and eco-warriors based in Teigngrace village hall, WBB stands for "We Bulldoze Britain".

**Brian Pedley reports on a Devon village's battle to save its valley**

The battle between the company and the villagers will climax in a six-week public inquiry that begins on July 21. At stake, say the villagers, is their way of life and the future of their two rivers.

Beneath the confluence of the Rivers Teign and Bovey are the last substantial reserves of the highest grade of ball clay. The mineral, formed 30 million years ago, is used in the manufacture of sanitary ware and other ceramic products where customers want pristine whiteness.

The reserves are extremely precious. We cannot find them anywhere else in the world," says Dawn Moore, WBB's environment manager.

Unfortunately, the natural environment above the clay is also precious. Thirty-two bird species live there; 100 breeding pairs of sand martins rear their young in nests bored in the sand cliffs, and kingfishers flash across the waters. The Teign has a family of otters and one of Devon's finest runs of salmon as well as more than 100 species of water beetles, mayflies, dragonflies and other invertebrates.

WBB, operator of the nearby 120-acre Southacre Quarry, which is close to exhaustion, wants to get at the clay reserves, and is proposing to move the rivers, and all their wildlife, 430 yards west and out of the valley. Its plan involves diverting more than a mile of both rivers combined and creating a new man-made confluence.

But the valley is notoriously flood-prone and residents are afraid of the "designer river" which would flow 380 yards nearer to their village. Devon Wildlife Trust, which will lead objections at the inquiry, argues that one of the West Country's most vibrant habitats will be destroyed. "You cannot treat the rivers like an old piece of carpet that you can just roll up and re-lay," says Paul Gompertz, the trust's director.

"The people of Teigngrace will lose a natural haven and gain a flood risk."

WBB, which is based nearby at Newton Abbot, traces its

origins to the late 17th century when clay was used in the manufacture of tobacco pipes. Now nearly 400 jobs depend on Southacre, and ball clay contributes £20 million to Devon's economy every year and earns some £37 million in foreign revenue. The project, says WBB, is essential to protect jobs for the next 100 years.

"This work will be habitat-orientated," says Mrs Moore. "It is a phased process. In the first year, for example, all we would do is plant trees."

In the second year the new river channels would be dug. Their waters would then be gradually released through sluices to allow the new rivers to establish themselves.

"River diversion is nothing new," says Dr Roger Bettess whose company, H R Wallingford Ltd, is advising WBB on the hydraulics issues.



Teigngrace researcher, campaign organiser and eco-warrior David Cox with David Bellamy in the river Teign, home to a family of otters and one of Devon's finest runs of salmon

lot of UK rivers have been "engineered" in the past. One of the classic examples is the painting by Constable of Flatford mill. That is an engineered river, yet it is seen as British countryside at its best.

WBB points to its own diversion of the Teign in 1970 as an example of how habitats recover. The new work would incorporate some 136 acres where wetland habitats would be created. A 20-year management scheme would include foraging areas for swallows, an artificial otter holt, and eroding

sand cliffs for sand martins. "It's all about recreating what was there before," says Mrs Moore. "The issues and the solutions are complex. That is why we have to manage this for the next 20 years. You cannot just carry on quarrying and not worry about it."

In Teigngrace village hall, tables are piled with computers, telephones, files of evidence and notes. Powerful allies now include Dr David Bellamy. Last summer's occupation of the site by more than 100 eco-warriors and other protesters was seen as a turning point in the campaign.

David Cox, 45, a former builder, was one of the original eco-warriors who remained in the village to co-ordinate the Anti-Quarry Action Group, Aqua. "The villagers had been fighting for

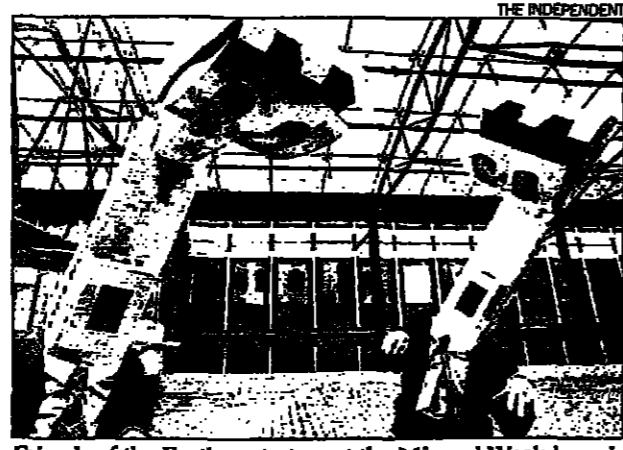
two years to make themselves heard and we came in just a few days before planning approval was given at Devon County Council," says Mr Cox. "We built an alliance from the very first moment."

Graham Page, a 67-year-old retired engineer, was one of the first residents of Teigngrace to welcome the warriors. "We had never met an eco-warrior in our lives," he says. "My wife said, 'Wouldn't it be nice if Swampy or someone turned up on our doorstep?' About an hour later, we went outside and found Dave and his group. We chatted and discovered that they were thinking, intelligent people who had come to rescue us."

After the three-month occupation of the site and a march to London, John Prescott, the environment secretary, called the inquiry. "We now have an international barrister who is working for less money than you would pay a plumber," says Mr Cox.

Britain's £2 billion minerals industry has a new campaign. Minerals 98, aimed at fostering better understanding of its work among communities, politicians and environmental groups.

But, on the specific issue of WBB's economic arguments, Devon Wildlife Trust remains unpersuaded. "If you don't allow access to the clay, of course there will be effects," says Mr Gompertz. "Consumers will get a slightly poorer grade of toilet."



Friends of the Earth protesters at the Mineral Week launch

# Night of the long cries

## FEATHER REPORT

PETER BROWN

JULY brings a strange night scene to some of the islands along the west coast of Britain. On Rùm in Scotland, on Skokholm and Skomer in Wales, and on many other small islands, the Maax shearwaters are starting to feed their young.

In the winter they are far away, skimming over the waves in the South Atlantic. In the spring, they come north again. They gather off the islands at dusk, and at night the males come ashore and take over the rabbit burrows that they will nest in. They call with loud, ghostly sounds from inside the burrows, and then the females flying round in the dark come down and choose their mates.

The female lays a single white egg some time around mid-May. Both partners share in the long period of incubation, with each sitting in the burrow for several days at a time while its mate takes a chance to feed itself up on fish and squid out at sea.

Now, in July, the eggs are hatching. For the next two months, the night sky over the islands will be full of wheeling dark shapes and sobbing, caterwauling cries



as the parents come in to feed their solitary offspring. They do all their inland work at night for fear of the great black-backed gulls that prey on them.

They are even in danger when the moon is bright, and on those nights the islands can be uncannily silent.

self into the wind and speed out to sea once more before daylight comes.

The young birds spend up to 70 days in the nest. They acquire their feathers and grow fatter and fatter, until by the end of August they are twice their parents' weight.

For their last ten days or so as nestlings they are left alone in the burrow. In fact, while they linger there, their parents may already be on the way to South America. The young birds' fat helps them through these days, but finally the urge to face the world cannot be resisted.

They emerge from their holes, find a launching pad and are off. They, too, head for South America, and the remains of their fat is enough to sustain them without stopping to feed until they finally reach the balmy waters of their winter home.

DERWENT MAY

What's about: Birders — watch for the first returning green sandpipers, Twitlers — squacco heron, Martin's Pond, Nottingham; Wilson's phalarope, Tacumshin, Wexford; spotted sandpiper, Wester, Shetland. Details from *Birdline*, (091) 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.

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# The man who fell to earth work

The man behind the revamp of Moscow's botanic garden might not have become a landscape gardener had he not fallen off a cliff. Jane Owen meets him in his garden of sculpture

ME AND MY GARDEN: KIM WILKIE

One of Britain's important landscape talents might well not have been discovered after an 80-foot fall down a cliff in central America almost killed him. Kim Wilkie was on holiday after coming down from Oxford when the incident occurred.

"It made me take a look at my life and think, 'If I had only two years left, do I really want to spend it selling frozen potatoes?' It is rather a paradox that I chose a profession that takes three years to train in, and in which the results sometimes cannot be seen in a lifetime," says Mr Wilkie.

He went on to redesign the botanic garden in Moscow, is restoring Harold Acton's Florentine garden La Pietra and is largely responsible for the Thames Landscape Strategy which maps out the ecology, restoration and use of land from Hampton to Kew.

After his accident, landscaping seemed the only appealing profession and Berkeley, California, the only school worth attending. Working as a waiter to pay his way, he graduated and set up Kim Wilkie Environmental Design, which is based in Richmond. His own garden, at the top of a Hampshire valley, centres around a mount linked by a curving path to a sunken spiral of lawn. The design was inspired by his interest in sculpture, spirals, nearby ancient burial mounds and Alexander Pope's garden in Twickenham, which had a large mount reached by a spiral path.

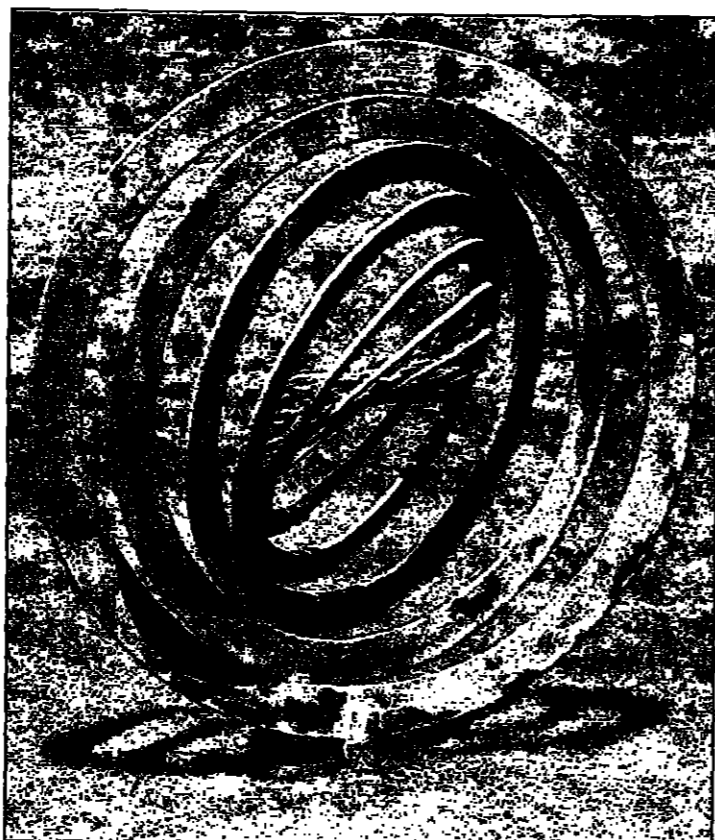
"I have managed to use three spirals here — the sunken area is an Archimedes spiral, the mount spiral is based on the Golden Section and there is a geodesic spiral, made by Simon Thomas's copper-coated steel sculpture, at the centre of the sunken area."

From the top of the mount the view stretches across a wide valley, dotted with grazing sheep and lambs, to the Isle of Wight.

Having drawn up detailed computer plans of the mount, Mr Wilkie used four layers of turf to cover the flint and chalk at its core. This was dug out of the area for the sunken spiral.

"I think that the turf layers are why the mount stays green even when the rest of the grass in the field is brown in summer," says Mr Wilkie. He does all the manual work himself — with help from his friends — and started his garden and landscape from scratch around his home, a conversion of a 19th-century flint and brick barn.

The manual work included planting 4,000 mixed broadleaf trees along the contours of the valley to accentuate the landscape's natural shape. Mr Wilkie is a believer in Pope's advice that we should consult the genius of the place. He also tries to loosen the boundaries between interior and exterior. This is an idea that took shape when he was a child growing up in the Far East, thanks to his father who was



Simon Thomas's copper-coated steel sculpture

assistant military attaché in Baghdad. One of the family's homes, in Malaysia, was built on stilts without glass in any of the windows. The jungle crowded in and monkeys danced in and out at will.

The same effect would be hard to repeat in Hampshire, but swivelling glass bricks in front of Mr Wilkie's desk open on to a walled garden where water tumbles over three steps; a yellow tree peony and a vine give shade and, in summer,

philadelphus scents the air. French doors and windows are enlarged to allow as much light as possible into the double storey living-room. This looks on to an apple orchard planted with a sea of 'Pink Perfection' tulips, white narcissi and snakes-head fritillaries. The pink and white apple blossom echoes the colour scheme.

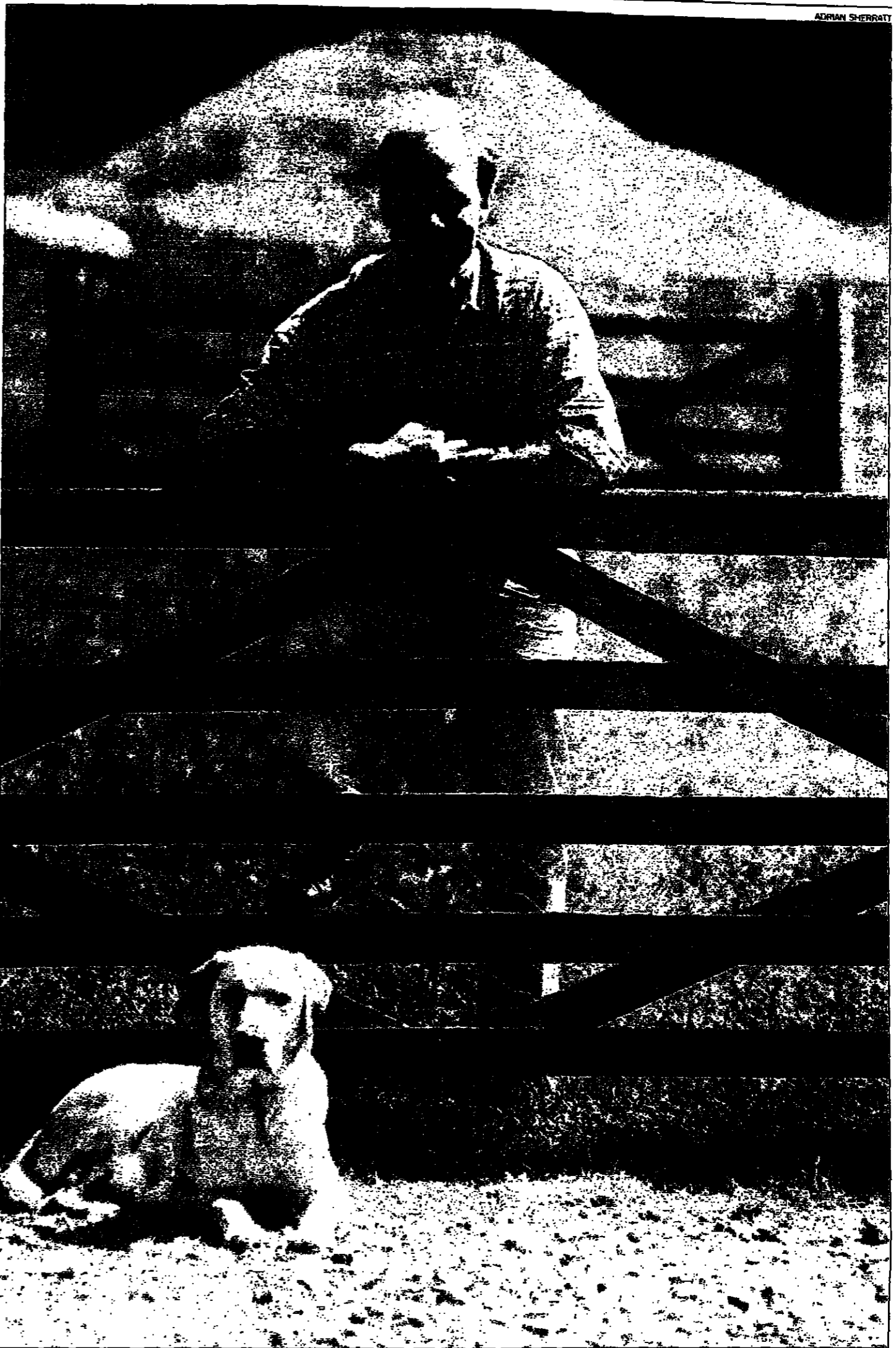
Aloes around the edge of the orchard's flint and brick wall are designed to house candles. At the highest point in this part of the garden a window has been built in the wall so the sheep can see into the orchard and vice versa and thus the boundaries between garden and landscape are blurred.

Ornate bricks, tiles, finials and escutcheons dot the garden's walls and the edging to the walled garden's water feature. They are from a job lot left over when the Manchester Brewery archway was dismantled. Between the walled garden and orchard, which surround two sides of the home, Mr Wilkie has built a 4m high platform where he sits an evening gin as the sun sets on his hidden valley. It is a restful place, even with



A prismatic garden sundial

views across such an innovative landscape, but Mr Wilkie's strange earthwork spirals are tame beside his revamp of Moscow's historic botanic garden. His startling scheme there includes a 50m canal which, in winter, when temperatures fall to minus 30, will be kept at a few degrees above freezing to give off mist. This will freeze on to the overhanging branches of Siberian birches. There will be demonstration gardens in front of relevant buildings with an overall plan which is dramatic and geometric. Heaven knows what Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, who formed the original gardens, would have made of the scheme from the man who fell down the cliff.



Environmental landscape designer Kim Wilkie against the backdrop of the mount in his garden in Dean inspired by Alexander Pope



A table is set for lunch in the walled garden overhung with a canopy of vines, left, and an urn provides an interesting focal point



'The sheep can see into the orchard and vice versa'

## Packed with the eye-catching and unusual

**■ Pine Lodge**  
Cuddra, St Austell, Cornwall (01736 73500). Well signed from the A390. Wed-Sun until Sept. 2pm-5pm. £3.  
**OWNERS** Ray and Shirley Clemo are taking a tough policy on opening their garden which is, I suspect, about to become famous. To maintain the peaceful atmosphere they will turn visitors away before it gets too crowded. This is altruistic because they have had to open in order to fund their costly hobby which started 22 years ago with an acre of fruit, vegetable and lawn and now extends to 30 acres of woodland, water, an arboretum and a formal garden. The plant collection is about 6,000, many of them unusual. This includes the National Collection of grevillea, the thin-leaved, brightly flowered evergreen shrubs native to Australia which thrive in Cornwall's gentle climate. Plants are grown from seed sent by the Clemos' relations Down Under and by plant hunting expeditions they help to sponsor. The garden has been built gradually and now includes 2,000 native broadleaf trees, a

pinetum and large lake, the latter edged with gunnera and candelabra primulas. Six water features have been added to the rest of the garden including a Monet-style bridge draped with white wisteria at the front of the house. In the formal area, now known as the Slave Garden after a statue at

its centre, three large herbaceous beds display all the colours of the rainbow. By this weekend their large collection of lilies may also be blooming. The Clemos' latest project is a Japanese garden with views down to the lake, woodland and a church steeple. They went to Kyoto to research the

### GARDENS TO VISIT

project before starting work. A Japanese tea house will "float" on a lake, there will be carefully placed stones, ferns, waterfalls and acers. The Clemos sell some of their unusual plants.

**■ Capel Manor Gardens**  
Bullsmore Lane, Enfield, Hertfordshire (0181-366 4442). 125 off the M25. Open daily 10am-4.30pm in summer. £4 or more when special events are held. Check prices before

you visit. Tonight there is a gala evening. **■ CHELSEA** may inspire a few exciting design ideas but here, an easy journey from central London, are 30 landscaped acres where the emphasis is on the achievable. There are plenty of demonstration gardens, each with a specific

theme or purpose from a flower arranger's garden through to a family garden to a Japanese-style garden. Capel is a horticultural and environmental centre and includes a series of gardens which trace the history of the English garden from the 16th century. This is also the venue

for some of the *Gardening Which?* trials, and there are plenty of other attractions to keep non-gardening family members happy.

**York Gate**  
Back Church Lane, Adel, Leeds (01132 678340). Behind Adel Church. Open by appointment. £3.  
WHEN I first visited York Gate 12 years ago, the late Sybil Spencer was working full-throttle on the garden. She outlived her husband and son, who made this delightful garden from one acre of rough farmland in 1951. By packing vista after vista with eye-catchers, to distract you this way and that, the plot seems far larger than an acre.

There is a sink garden, an iris walk beside a patterned path, strange fin-like yew topiary and many other interesting shapes; a large, raised tank; gargoyles and other features all placed in remarkable, dense planting. Mrs Spencer bequeathed the garden to the Gardener's Royal Benevolent Society.



The intricate wishing-well at Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield, left; box balls and topiary in the herb garden in York Gate, Leeds; and the newt pond at Pine Lodge, St Austell

JANE OWEN

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# Greasepaint among the roses

Stephen Anderton spends a pleasant evening watching the first interactive play about gardeners, for gardeners and performed in gardens



The Royal Observatory Gardens in Greenwich will host the play

Have you seen *Digging for Ladies*? With a title like that you might be forgiven for thinking it is a new West End musical. But no. It's an open-air play, by Jyll Bradley, about gardeners, for gardeners and performed in gardens. It was commissioned last year and now it is touring the country's gardens, having just finished a run in Regent's Park, London.

I saw the show at Milton's Mount, Crawley, a stately garden where the house has long been demolished and replaced by council flats. The garden soldiers on, not gardened as it was in its Victorian heyday, but gently surviving as a public park. I sat and ate my picnic in the gathering dusk while gentlemen in whites amused themselves at croquet, until us picnicers were gathered up for our garden tour.

Do you ever feel when you go on a real tour of a garden that you are getting things fifth-hand? Here the actresses, in cotton frocks and pink cardies a size too small, lead their courtesans round the real garden before the show, in the manner of stately home guides everywhere. Halt their flow, and they may

well have to start again. What the actresses actually tell their groups about the garden has been recently gleaned from the real gardeners who run the real garden.

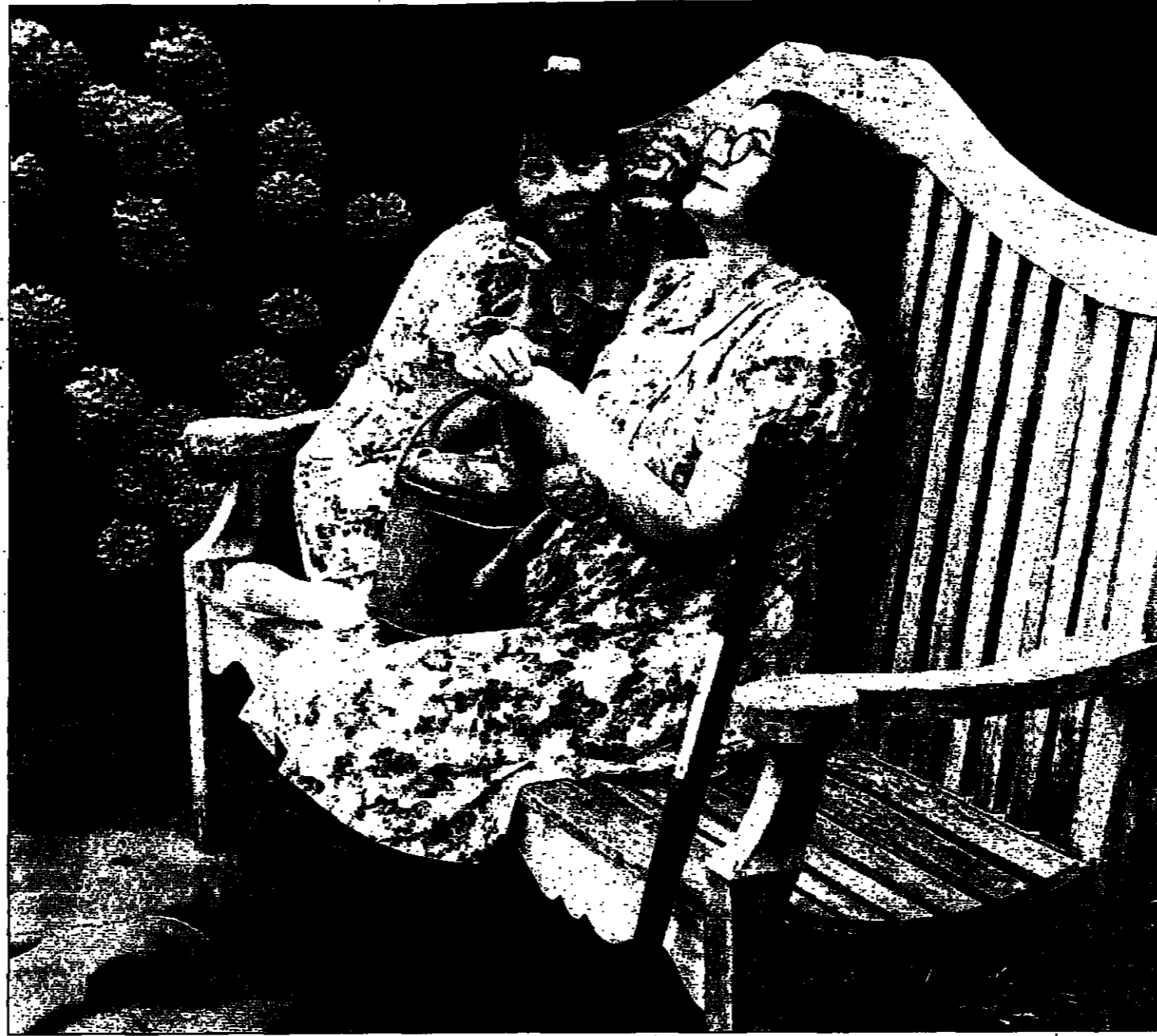
Being actresses and not gardeners, the translation from one person to another introduces some magnificent strands of misinformation, of the kind so frequently offered by real guides.

Art imitates life here. "This is the only black mulberry in Crawley, and it was planted by King Charles II for his silk worms," goes the cry of garden guides everywhere. But what about that mulberry tree over there then? And isn't it only the white mulberry that silk worms eat? At the end of the tour, we take our seats in the formal garden.

**"This is a galumphing battle of forks and trowels"**

If the exact level and location of reality has been a little uncertain until now, from here on in the fantasy deepens as the four ladies tell of their infatuation with their garden, their jobs, their favourite plants, and the dream of being better gardeners.

"Why wasn't my garden in *Country Life*? Why do my evergreens all turn out to be deciduous? Why are my blossoms always nipped in the



The play starts with actresses Christine Entwistle and Cindy Oswin leading people round the garden and ends with them jumping in a pool

bud? Oh, rose, thou art sick!" lip-synchs one of them to the voice of Peter Pears.

Occasionally, the four pink ladies take to the lawns and dance to the accompaniment of Mozart's Horn Concerto, a battle of forks and trowels and shears. It is galumphing, green-welled Jacobean masque, rich with double entendre.

I once saw an outdoor performance of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* at Christ's College, Cambridge,

where the heavens opened during the storm scene.

*Digging for Ladies* goes one better. In the last act there is a total eclipse of the sun in which, at the climax, and while Rossini rages over the sound system, fireworks and garden sprinklers erupt.

The good ladies rip off their wigs and cardies, and leap like crazed things into the pool. This is something I have never seen done by a real garden guide.

After the show, when the last picnic hamper has gone off into the twilight and the sprinklers have been wound up and put away, I ponder why it was so appealing.

The answer has to be that only rarely do gardeners stop and take stock of what fun gardening can be. Ms Bradley sees it. And it is good to see something performed in a garden which is actually about gardens, instead of using a garden simply as a pleasant auditorium.

I asked Ms Bradley if she thought there was further mileage for her in the language of gardening. She is non-committal, but I get the distinct impression that she has done food and done gardening.

She needs a new vocabulary to rifle now. Angling perhaps? Performed in the river at the bottom of a garden...

● *Digging for Ladies* is at The Royal Observatory Gardens, Greenwich Park, from July 9-11.



- Cut the spent heads off large hybrid peonies and first spikes off delphiniums.
- Look for mildew on lupines, delphiniums and acanthus.
- Flowers and foliage of oriental poppies can be cut away and the space filled with annuals.
- Look out for seedheads ripening on early-flowering peonies like *veitchii*, *woodwardii* and *mlokosewitschii*, and collect the seeds. Sow in a pot outdoors in a cool place for germination in spring.
- Remove the spent flowers and seedheads on petunias, argyranthemums and nasturtiums to keep them flowering. Break off the flowered stem at a low joint.
- Begin dead-heading plants you do not wish to self-sow too generously.
- Strawberry runners on young, healthy plants may be pegged down. Move into new positions in September.
- Make sure potatoes have been earthed up to stop the upper tubers becoming green. A heavy watering will hasten and boost the yield of earlies in dry areas.
- Continue to plant leeks.
- Trim fast-growing hedges but leave slower-growers for a single autumn clipping.



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# Designs on our plants

### Hundreds of Japanese will visit Hampton Court next week to buy up British garden products, says Stephen Anderton



FOR 250 years British gardens have been designed to look like those found in Japan and China. And now the pendulum has begun to swing the other way. In Japan today, there is nothing so fashionable as English gardening.

Next week, 570 Japanese will descend on the Hampton Court Flower Show (July 9-12) for a visit sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, to see the best of British horticulture. They will look at gardens, landscaping, design, plants and equipment.

In most cases, the Japanese market may have been a difficult one in which to get a foot in the door, but when it comes to gardening, that door is being held wide open. The market value is estimated at £10 billion, and nurserymen are licking their lips.

programme about her house and country garden.

In Cumbria last year, Chris Crowder, the head gardener at Levens Hall and a former *Blue Peter* gardener, had a Japanese TV star shadow him for a week and the process was filmed. He was amused to see the final result showing a 17th-century English garden for Japanese television, with his own voice dubbed.

On his recent trip to Britain, Emperor Akihito visited Kew Gardens to see the newly restored Japanese Gateway. It came to Kew following its construction in 1910 for the Japan-British Exhibition in London.



WHEN the Japanese delegates arrive at Hampton Court, they will be addressed by designer Paul Miles and Rosemary Verey, one of our busiest horticultural ambassadors. The pair have designed four "English" show gardens on the roof of the Hankyu department store in Osaka.

When the Hampton Court show is over, one of its exhibitors, Jorjy Norton, of Lambrook Plants, is off to Japan to take part in the exhibition UK'98 in Tokyo.

His credentials as a horticultural ambassador are twofold. First is his work with the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, setting up the heritage plants scheme — an attempt to get some of the best varieties held in national collections into wider garden use.

Secondly, his family lives at East Lambrook Manor — once home to Margery Fish, the Fifties gardening writer.



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Kew Gardens on their recent trip to Britain to see restorations

East Lambrook is on the market as a private house once more, and Lambrook Plants is developing separately. But the Lambrook name will always carry the cosy Somerset image for export purposes.

Mr Norton's Japanese involvement came about after a visit to East Lambrook by the Yamada family, who own the Barakura English Garden in Japan. Plants for his UK'98 stand have already been sent to Japan and are being looked

after by Mark Chapman, the ex-pat head gardener at Barakura. Other UK exhibitors in Japan will include famous names such as Peter Beales, grower of old-fashioned roses, and Whichford Pottery.

According to Mr Norton, the Japanese are keen to grow our perennials in pots when they don't have the space to make an "English" garden. It is the dream of every nurseryman — a new market for those

dozens of hardy geraniums. The world of gardening, like the world in general, is becoming a smaller place. The Royal Horticultural Society has a Japanese branch now and has helped with the Hampton Court visit.

Most of the granite garden lanterns which come out of Japan are actually carved in China and Korea, because Japan is not keen to go on quarrying its granite.

But is all this international nostalgia a good thing? It may be good for trade and industry, but it makes one long for a bit of exciting modern design.

Hampton Court this year is offering a silver-speckled blue plastic lawn in the Citroën garden and towering wooden flowers in the Thames Water conservation garden. Originality never smelt so sweet.

For information on the Japanese gardening market contact Action Japan, 0171-215 5000.

## STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

**Q** I would like to grow two plants, possibly palms, in terracotta pots to create a Mediterranean feel in front of our Spanish-style bungalow. What do you suggest? — A.H. Goodwin, Bechill-on-Sea.

**A** Close to the sea as you are, palms should work. Plant *Cordyline australis*, the "cabbage palm", as it withstands the wind. It also does well in pots. For top-heavy plants, which may blow over, consider fibreglass pots. False terracotta in this material looks better than plastic.

**Q** We sow and raise pansies at our country cottage. But for several years they have begun to wither and die in early summer, the roots appearing to be practically eaten away. Ants have been suggested and, indeed, we sometimes find ants' eggs under the dead plants. Ant powder has no effect. Any ideas? — J. Hussey, London W8.

**A** This might be root aphids which on hot, light soils can colonise the main root just under the plants, and can look like eggs. An insecticidal drench of the bed would solve this. Another possibility is pansy sickness, a soil-borne fungus which is difficult to eradicate. It lingers for years.

It sounds as if you have grown pansies for many years in the same place, and perhaps it is hardly worth drenching whole beds with insecticides just to be able to grow pansies. If the problem is fungal, it will not go away quickly either.

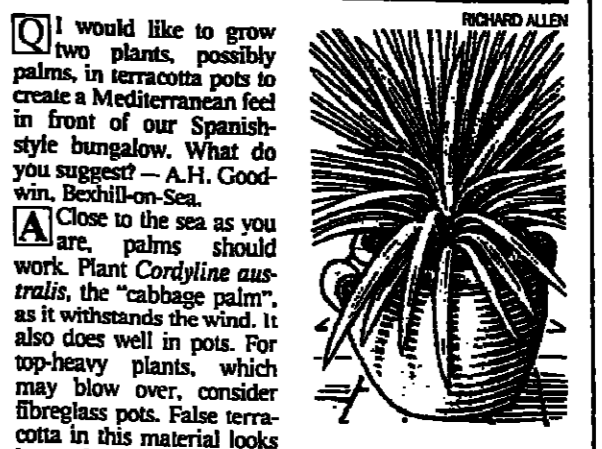
**Q** Our neighbours have put up a 9ft fence and ruined our lovely outlook. Could you recommend a fast-growing plant to cover it as quickly as possible? — C. Clark, Eastbourne.

**A** You might check first with local planners that the neighbours are allowed to put up such a tall fence. Then consider making a virtue of necessity, and making your own "face" to the party fence. You could try a trellis of 4in-wide bamboo canes, interplanted with the large-leaved vine *Vitis coccinea*.

*Clematis montana* grows fast and will give you some worthwhile colour. Have ivy as well if you want something evergreen. If it is north-facing, you could use *Hydrangea petiolaris* too, which is substantial in winter, if not evergreen.

Another option is to plant a hedge in front of the fence. There is no point putting in something so large that it will give you trouble later. Supposing you have room, and supposing it did not take away your sunlight, I could not possibly suggest you plant a group of three golden yew trees, which might annoy your neighbours dreadfully.

Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.



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# Put yourself in Pooh's corner

They're changing the guard in Chelsea and Devon. Rachel Kelly reports on two homes linked with AA Milne which are for sale

## HOUSES OF THE WEEK

Two homes intimately connected with millions of childhood memories have come on to the market. AA Milne's family house in Chelsea and a Devon estate, which lays claim to the bridge that inspired the Poohsticks story, are both for sale.

But there are lies, damned lies, and estate agents' desires to milk literary connections, it seems. Richard Marchand, from Devon agents Marchand Petit, has drummed up interest — *The Times* included — by talk that the bridge on the Devon estate is one with links to AA Milne.

It has. But it would be wrong to assume that this bridge inspired the children's writer to conjure tales of Poohsticks — even though, according to the house's owner, Peter de Wallens, locals have long called it Poohsticks Bridge.

In fact, the link is that Christopher Robin lived in a house near the bridge for many years, a property that has now been renovated by a developer and divided into separate flats called "perhaps not to everyone's taste" — Pooh Corner and Piglet's Place.

AA Milne is more commonly thought to have set this story on a wooden bridge in Hartfield, East Sussex. Christopher Robin was photographed there in 1979 playing Poohsticks on the bridge, which is remarkably similar to that in Ernest Shepard's original paintings for the book.

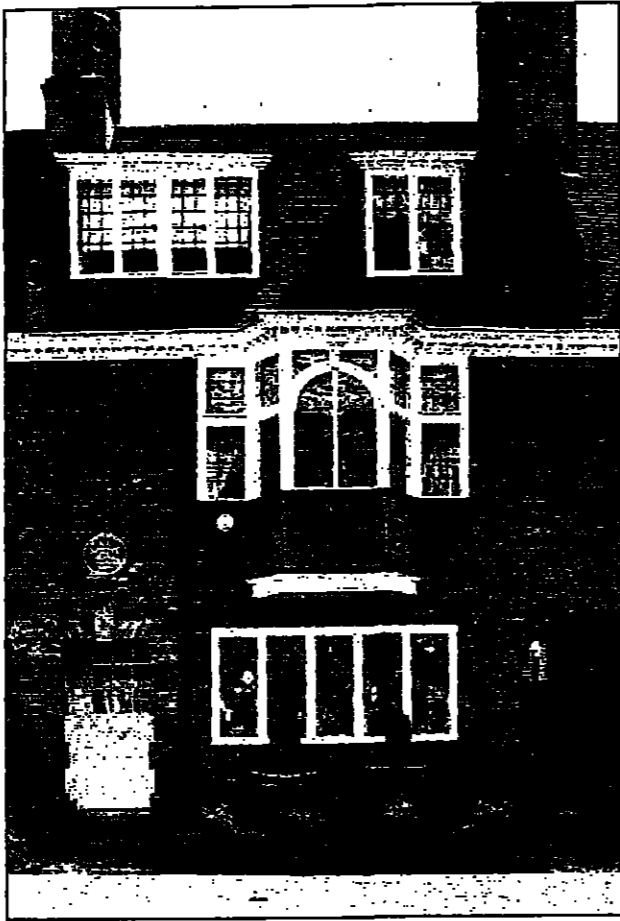
The creator of Winnie-the-Pooh and Tigger, Piglet and Kanga lived at 13 Mallord Street, London, between 1919 and 1942 with his wife Daphne and son Christopher Robin, who was born in 1920.

Bective Davidson, the agent which is selling the house for £1.4 million, has unearthed an interview with the journalist Claude Luke and young Christopher at the house in April 1928.

The hero of *When We Were Very Young* is described as a "certain young gentleman of Chelsea" by Mr Luke.

"I found myself shaking the small hand, admiring the fair, silky head, and the large grave eyes," he wrote.

Christopher escorted Mr Luke round his nursery. "A delightful room it is, with its light walls and plain, unvarnished furniture; its gay cushions, and the scores of toys; the long shelf of books, and the original Shepard sketches



Left, the three-storey freehold house in Mallord Street, Chelsea, which was once AA Milne's home, and right, the children's author with his son Christopher Robin and some famous friends, in the nursery in 1922



Left, Poohsticks Bridge as it appears in the original illustration; centre, AA Milne's son Christopher Robin on Hartfield bridge; right, Em bridge, Devon



framed upon the walls and all the dearly loved toys that figure in the poems — Piglet in an absurd green jacket and carrying an umbrella, Winnie-the-Pooh, Kanga and poor old Eeyore.

Robin showed them all with grave pleasure. He told me that Piglet was not the original Piglet which, alas, had been chewed by a dog, and that poor Eeyore, who nodded so lugubriously, had really nothing to be sad about.

The house itself would "be the despair of soulful property agents, who, though they might praise it with every cliché in their vocabulary, would yet miss the beauty of Mr Milne's home," Mr Luke wrote.

The "sunny house in Chelsea" was a rhapsody in "azure and primrose", with blue carpets and yellow walls and



Embridge Mill is one of four mills on the river Em listed in the Domesday Book

curtains, and a book-lined study. Milne himself described the Chelsea home as "London's prettiest house", and in a 1919 article describes his pride in having a staircase of his own.

The drawing room, unchanged since Milne's day,

still boasts the same panels, cornices and fireplace. Christopher Robin himself later remembered the smell of geraniums and fuchsias in the south-facing garden.

With Alice, he would have walked from the house to Buckingham Palace to see the

Changing of the Guard, an experience immortalised in verse.

The four-bedroom, two-bathroom house has had two owners since the Milnes left, and the current owner is selling to move to a smaller house. The house was on the market

briefly two years ago, but was withdrawn for family reasons.

The second house rich in Pooh connections is Embridge Mill, on the market for £360,000. It is one of four mills on the river Em listed in the Domesday Book, and is in the heart of the area which AA Milne drew on to create the characters of the "Hundred Acre Wood".

Mr de Wallens was a close friend of Christopher Robin, who died two years ago.

"He was very fond of the bridge on the estate, even though he sometimes resented all the attention that his father's books brought him," Mr de Wallens recalls.

Of course, AA Milne's true inspiration will never be known for certain. Mr de Wallens is unsure which of the bridges is the "real" one. "I was under the impression that

## MARKET COMMENT: BLUE PLAQUES

ALTHOUGH the streets of certain parts of London — Belgravia, Bloomsbury, Hampstead, Chelsea, Kensington — seem studded with blue plaques proclaiming the famous (and not-so-famous) names who were born, lived, worked or died there in days gone by, blue plaque houses appear on the market only rarely.

But estate agents agree that while a plaque boosts the saleability of a property, it is unlikely to influence its asking price.

"Its value is that it makes the property more interesting," says Ian Peel at estate agent Knight Frank. "A lot of London houses tend to look pretty much the same, but a plaque is a sign of history and tradition. It makes the house stand out from its neighbours."

That, of course, is a useful marketing tool: Philip Green at agent Goldschmidt & Howland reports that overseas buyers in general, and Americans in particular, like to buy a piece of English history. "If you've got a plaque you should shout about it," he

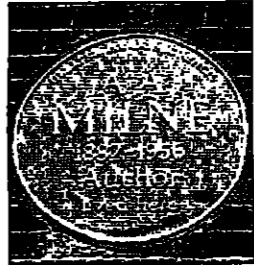
says. "It's certainly a great selling point."

The plaque itself has significance as a symbol of history on the wall, but there's added weight in the name it commemorates. And there are distinct divisions of plaque-worthy notables: an obscure poet or Victorian philanthropist would generate less excitement than

would, say, a prime minister or world-famous artist. Edward Caudwell at Aylesford says that it tends to be the more intrinsically interesting houses that were inhabited by the great and the good anyway.

"In the artier areas such as Bloomsbury or Hampstead you might get the price bid up a little if a few people were after a place for that historical interest. But look at the AA Milne house in Chelsea: it's a lovely house in a very nice street, but it's in need of quite a bit of work. I think that, on the whole, people in Chelsea are more interested in condition than in blue plaques."

FAITH GLASGOW



The blue plaque at AA Milne's former home

Milne lived in Hampshire when he wrote the books," he says. But the doubt about the authenticity of Em Bridge does not deter many dedicated Pooh enthusiasts from visiting the site, as Mr de Wallens points out, and no doubt it will

attract some buyers, too. "We get hundreds of Pooh fans coming here to play the game every summer. As a boy I used to participate myself."

Agents: Bective Davidson, 0171-559 6677; Marchand Petit, 01548 357588

# Huts off to a symbol of beach life

They epitomise British eccentricity. With all the trappings of Fifties suburbia — miniature gardens, fading linoleum and singing kettles — beach huts are the backdrop for Larkin poems. To find the hard-core enthusiasts, visit somewhere such as Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, when the wind is biting and the rain coming down. There they are, row upon row of people, braving the squalls for the simple pleasures of Calor gas cooking and a view of the sea.

Yet Amanda Slayton is far removed from this image. Vivacious and articulate, with two young sons, aged ten and five, she runs a European public relations firm in London. Mrs Slayton and family drive for nearly two hours to spend a day at their hut in Frinton. So why do they do it?

"We chose Frinton because it's a traditional seaside town. There are no arcades here; it took five years of campaigning for the town to even

Summer is the time when beach hut enthusiasts strut their stuff — but at a price, writes Fred Redwood

accept a fish and chip shop. We set off early in the morning, without having to pack much because most of our necessities are in the hut. We can relax, far removed from worries about work. When the boys return they are exhausted — they have a real family day out."

Mrs Slayton was fortunate to pick up her beach hut for the rock bottom price of £2,600, by placing a card in a corner-shop window. On top of that she pays rates of £140 a



Beach huts — particularly ones where owners can sleep overnight — can cost up to £30,000

year, insurance of £100 a year and, pure Frinton, an annual payment to the Beach Hut Association of £5.

There are various ways of acquiring beach huts in different parts of the country. Some are council owned, and prospective buyers have to join a waiting list. Others are owned privately and, like any other properties, find their own market price. This is dictated, largely, by position. In Frinton, where 2,000 stand on the promenade,

front-row properties fetch between £2,500 and £3,000, while those in the second row go for between £1,500 and £2,000. The huts on stilts, overlooking the golf course are the most sought-after and can cost up to £6,000.

Prospective buyers should look through the small ads columns in local papers or contact estate agents such as Sucklings & Co. While Frinton has a quiet, family feel to its beach hut community, the

atmosphere is more vibrant on the South Coast, around Bournemouth and Christchurch. The hut frontages provide guaranteed space when the rippers fill the beach in high season.

Then, when the crowds have dwindled in the evening, it's party time for the beach-hut fraternity. Sue Fletcher, a mother of three, particularly enjoys the social aspect of owning a beach hut. "The people along the row have known each

other for many years and we have formed a strong friendship group," she says.

"The children play with one another during the day, then at around nine o'clock, we light the barbecue and bring out the wine."

There is a lengthy waiting list for beach huts in Bournemouth. Council rent is £400 a year, while it costs an average of £850 to buy a hut from a previous owner.

A friend of Mrs Fletcher's made her hut for her, which obviously reduced its cost. Anyone else choosing that route would be well advised to study council regulations regarding design and to take heed of its unwavering taste for the colour "Buckingham Green".

A few miles further along the South Coast, at Hengisbury Head, there are some of the most dramatically situated beach huts in the country.

Occupying the split between two channels of sea, their single rooms have beds set in the walls, where owners can sleep overnight — a practice strictly banned by most authorities. For the joy of waking to the sound of the sea lapping close-by, a hut here costs between £20,000 and £30,000.

Of course, not everyone succumbs to beach-hut charm. When Roy Callard agreed an early retirement package seven years ago, he bought a hut in Langland Bay in South Wales.

The cluster of huts, overlooking a curving bay and close to the Gower Coastal path, seemed ideal. Mr Callard looked forward to treating his

young grandchildren to weekends spent playing on the foreshore. But it was not to be.

"The beach huts were built in the 1920s and they cater for a different age," he says. "In those days you could safely give children the run of the beach but not so now. Langland Bay is overcrowded and we found it quite stressful having to keep track of the little ones."

"Even when my wife and I spent time here alone I didn't enjoy myself. I found it a very passive life-style. I like to be doing things — playing golf, gardening or just walking. I look back on our beach hut as a mistake, an attempt to freeze-frame nostalgia, which didn't work out."

Such sentiments are not shared by Mrs Slayton at Frinton. Recently, she called on the services of an interior designer friend who is going to revamp her hut in a New England style — all stark wood and clean simplicity.

"This beach hut has been bought for my sons with money which was left to them. It's a family thing. "By redecorating I have left my mark on it and in time they will change it to their tastes."

"There is a magic to beach life which transcends fashions in kids' entertainment. I would love this hut to be passed down to future generations and then subsequent generations. After all, what better gift could you leave someone than days at the seaside?"

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# Meet the barn stormers

Barns make great homes but many are standing empty because of bureaucracy, says Diana Wildman

Perhaps one answer to the fuss over using greenfield sites for house building is to do up a few more barns. Our rural heritage of farm buildings, many now redundant and deteriorating rapidly, could offer a partial solution to Britain's ever-increasing housing shortage.

But Government legislation, coupled with the district planning departments, is resulting in the owners of many of these once-handsome buildings being refused permission for any change of use. Either that or they are told that consent will only be granted for an office conversion.

While this might well work on a country estate close to good transport and a potential workforce, it is of little comfort to a struggling farmer with one small barn, miles from any town or village.

Craig Noel, of Strutt & Parker's Lewes office, cites two recent planning decisions which seem to defy logic. He says: "A Sussex farmer, needing to diversify, applied for permission to convert a disused barn into a smart home he planned to sell."

"He was granted consent on condition it was lived in by an agricultural or forestry worker. This was completely impractical as the farm needed fewer workers, not more, and the barn, once converted, would be worth a high sum."

The local authority was unmoved by this argument so the farmer created a beautiful home and moved into it himself, thereby making the farmhouse, which has no restriction of occupancy on it, available for sale or letting.

A small derelict barn set in the heart of an East Sussex farm has been "available to rent" (for office use only) for most of this year. The 150-acre farm is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty, and Mr Noel has been trying

to obtain residential consent for the owner.

But he has to prove there is no demand for office space in that locality. The only way this could be done is to advertise it as such for at least six months even though it is an empty shell.

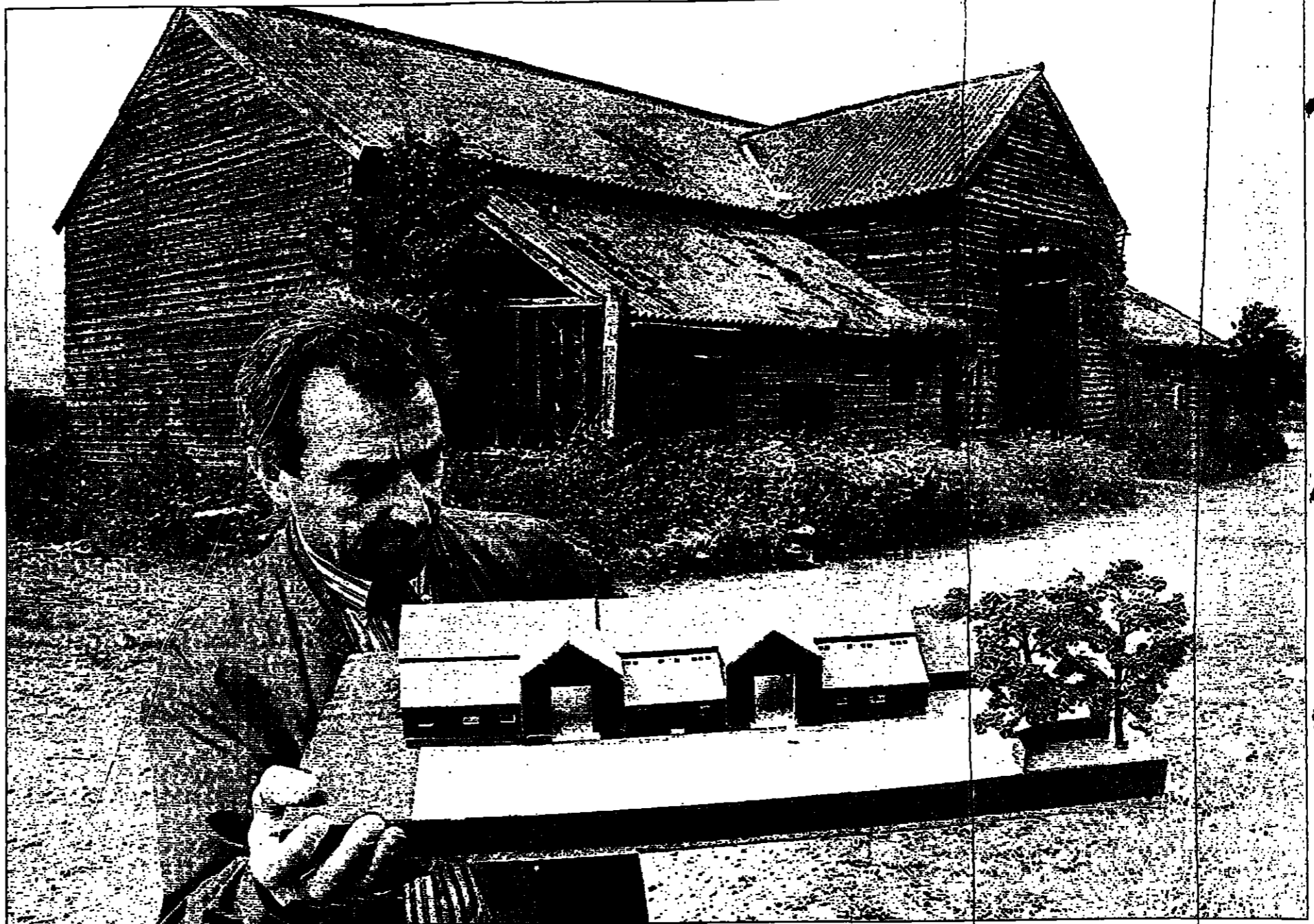
Rural employment is a contentious issue and, where practical, consent for commercial projects should be given. But in areas where there is no demand for office space, surely a little common sense should prevail.

When estates convert for office space, it can be quite profitable. The Luton Hoo estate recently completed the conversion of the original piggeries, set in the heart of the estate, into offices, a scheme which has proved a success. There were no problems in obtaining the necessary permission, which included designated car parking in the courtyard.

Daniel Jones of Bidwells, which manages the estate, says: "Location is all. Luton, which has an airport, station and good motorway access, is only two miles away. Now known as Home Farm Units, the rent achieved is £12 per sq ft compared with the Luton office market rent which averages £7 per sq ft. These are quiet, prestigious offices with no parking problems in a marvellous rural environment."

Early in 1996, Steve Montilla purchased five acres of redundant farmland, together with the remaining parts of a once magnificent Kentish barn and adjacent outbuildings near the cinque port of Rochester. Once part of the famous Cobham Hall estate, the original mansion now houses a girls' boarding school.

Mr Montilla employed a specialist architect, Roger Joyce, to transform these redundant buildings into a



Architect Roger Joyce has been trying for two years to get permission to convert Cobham Berry Barn into a country home but he has yet to satisfy planning officials

spacious country home. But more than two years later he seems to be no nearer fulfilling this dream.

First, the district planners insisted that Mr Joyce proved that the barn was redundant, was of historic interest, was capable of conversion without being extended and that there was no viable way it could be used for commercial purposes.

The architect did all this. He then submitted his plans which included replacing the missing bits of the barn. This was refused. Permission was granted to recreate 50 per cent of the outbuildings which seems illogical. So Mr Joyce has advised his client to appeal, which could take a further ten months or so, not to mention a further £10,000 on top of the £12,000 it has cost Mr Montilla so far.

"I come across planning difficulties almost every day",

says David Parry of Cluttons Daniel Smith, "and a lot of the time the planning restraints appear to be more whimsical than logical."

One man who has been saving barns because of planning constrictions is Peter Barker. He rescues old agricultural buildings from all over England and Wales — anything from a 16th-century Sussex barn to an 18th-century Welsh cart shed. He dismantles the buildings and stores them around the yard in his home — and relocates them. He moved a barn from Ockley to Hascombe in Surrey to create a north-facing studio for the artist David Shepherd, and has rebuilt barns to create a cricket pavilion, a garden centre and even to cover a swimming pool for the late Paolo Gucci in West Sussex.

Peter Barker, Antique Buildings, 01483 200477



The artist David Shepherd uses a converted barn as his studio. The light and space make it an excellent work space

## HOME SWAP

House prices in London's Putney have levelled off with more houses on the market, and prices are negotiable, says estate agent Foxtons. Expect to pay from £250,000 to £550,000 for a three-to-five-bedroom Victorian terraced house. Large double-fronted six-bedroom detached houses in west Putney stretch from £250,000 to £1 million. One-bedroom garden flats start at £115,000; two-bedroom flats from £145,000.

London buyers priced out of the Cotswolds are moving further west for better value, according to Knight Frank, Gloucestershire. A two-hour drive from central London, is becoming fashionable. Prices are 15 per cent lower than prime Cotswolds. A detached three-to-four-bedroom honey-stone cottage, with a large garden, can be had for £200,000; a two-bedroom terraced cottage from £100,000.

The exodus from London and the Home Counties is pushing up prices in Suffolk. Popular areas include East Bergholt, Higham and Dedham, also Woodbridge and Southwold. An hour from Liverpool Street to Ipswich by fast train (50 minutes to Colchester), detached cottages with up to four bedrooms stretch from £175,000; farmhouses from £250,000 to £400,000 for six bedrooms, following price gains of 15 per cent in the past year, according to Strutt & Parker.

In Suffolk, a similar sum (£550,000) will buy Barham Manor, a six-bedroom Grade II listed 15th-century Cotswold-stone house in 4.5 acres of secluded gardens and grounds, near Ipswich (Strutt & Parker 01473 214841).

For even less (£525,000), you can afford Southfield House, a seven-bedroom Grade II listed 15th-century Cotswold-stone house in 4.5 acres of formal gardens and paddocks, at South Woodchester, Gloucestershire. It comes with a self-contained flat and a swimming pool (Knight Frank 01285 659771).

CHERYL TAYLOR

# Your very own place in the sun

Solar heating can save money, says Christian Dymond

You usually get a good feeling lying in a hot bath, but when the water has been heated by the sun and you're not paying for the electricity, it's wonderful," says Mike Smith, who had two solar panels installed on a house in Wales two years ago.

From May until August and sometimes September, he and his wife Pauline depend on four square metres of panel for heating their washing and washing-up water.

The panels are active at any time when the sun is shining, even if there is a thin layer of cloud cover. When the weather is poor the Smiths use an electric shower.

An average day's sun will heat a 250-litre cylinder of water and on bright days the water can become too hot to put their hands under. In winter a solid-fuel Rayburn provides hot water and heats the radiators.

"The overriding reason for installing solar panels was environmental, to cut down on the use of fossil fuel, although I also knew there would be a saving on my electricity bills over a long period," says Mr Smith.

There are a number of panels for solar water-heating on the market these days, varying in price, performance and quality. The Smiths have what is called a "flat-plate collector" — the most commonly found form of solar panel — fitted to the south-facing slope of their roof. There is also a collector called an "evacuated tube" collector which is more sophisticated and therefore more expensive.



Two solar panels on the roof of the Smiths' house in Wales can heat a 250-litre cylinder of water, even when there is cloud cover

pumped across the back of the absorbing plate to collect this heat energy and transfer it to the hot-water cylinder. Obviously the solution of antifreeze and water does not mix with the useable hot water in the cylinder.

When the Smiths' pump controller senses a 4-5C difference between the temperature on the collector and the water in the cylinder, the pump is automatically switched on.

David Lloyd-Jones, of Solar Sense in Swansea, a firm which supplies a range of solar systems, says that with solid-fuel systems such as the one the Smiths have, it is often

advisable to have a very small electric element at the top of the cylinder, so that on cool days in spring and autumn that electric element (positioned to heat 10-15 litres of water) ensures that you have sufficient hot water for small washing purposes.

"If the element is fitted with a thermostat and only has to raise the temperature a few degrees, the costs are minimal," he adds. He reckons an average installed price for a system similar to the Smiths would be £1,900-£2,500, with installation taking about three days. It should last for at least 25-35 years.

Mr Lloyd-Jones says that one square metre of flat-plate collector ought to provide 45-50 litres of hot water a day, at 45-50C. A 4 sq metre system is ideal for two adults and two children, giving 45-50 per cent of their annual hot water needs.

The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Powys, Wales, estimates that there are now 48,000 domestic solar-powered water-heating systems in Britain and that the capital cost of 4 sq metres of good-quality panel should be between £1,500 and £4,000. This

cost could be much less if you do it yourself. Planning permission is not usually needed unless your home is listed or you live in a conservation area. If you have any doubt, consult your planning officer.

Solar collectors for hot-water systems should not be confused with solar electrical panels known as "photovoltaic panels". At the moment photovoltaic panels are relatively expensive although prices are gradually coming down.

"Installing solar-powered water-heating systems is economic in new homes," says Paul Trimby at CAT, "but you won't be losing money by

putting them into older properties. The payback time will be over a number of years, depending on the cost of the system and the price of the fuel which it is replacing."

The Centre for Alternative Technology (01654 72400) offers a free information service for the inquiries. Write to: CAT, Machynlleth, Powys SY23 9AD. The centre also issues two booklets on the subject. Tapping the Sun: A Solar Water-Heating Guide, £2.50 plus p&p. Solar Water Heating: A DIY Guide by Paul Trimby, £3.95.

Solar Sense, the Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea SA1 1RY (01792 31900).

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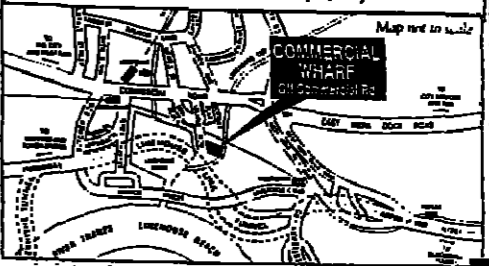
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Diary of a househunter

**MONDAY**  
Having lost the house in Tooting, south London, because the vendors wanted £106,000 and the mortgage survey only valued it at £100,000, we are giving up on the area. Suddenly the place is a dump we were lucky to escape from.

**TUESDAY**  
Shepherds Bush and Acton in west London are the new hunting grounds. We justify this volte-face with talk of the ripple effect from Notting Hill, which will make for a better resale in a few years.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Our hopes of moving from our rented flat in Notting Hill Gate to our



dream home have been dashed. The trustafarians buying the Notting Hill flat are moving in on Monday, so we accept the kind offer of a friend to house-sit her parents' home in Esher, Surrey, for the summer.

**THURSDAY**  
Details from estate agents in Shepherds Bush and Acton arrive. We have no hope of getting a house, but a two-bedroom flat with garden still looks possible.

**FRIDAY**  
We start moving into the house in Esher. After viewing endless poky flats, it is quite a palace. Ten bedrooms with landscaped garden, pool and tennis court. Homelessness in style.

**EMMA MAHONY**  
Next week: viewing in Shepherds Bush

# Civvies sign up for home service

**Rachel Kelly discovers how the rank and file are snapping up bargains among former military living quarters**

**M**ilitary police circle the perimeter fence. The lavatories are state-of-the-art, circa 1940. And the kitchen boilers run on coal. Yet first-time buyers are queuing to buy these 'horrible little houses' at the former Ministry of Defence site at Basingstoke, four miles from Royston in Hertfordshire.

A two-bedroom terraced house on the estate sells for about £62,000, which is about half the price of a new house on civvie street in Royston.

The pattern is repeated at sites up and down the country. Former MoD property is being sold off at bargain-basement prices ever since Annington Homes bought the Ministry of Defence's entire married quarters estate of 58,000 homes for £1.7 billion in 1996. That means the average house costs £30,000.

Annington Homes sells around 700 houses a year, some to developers or housing associations, others to the public. The rule is not to mix public and private sector housing, thereby avoiding private buyers complaining about council house tenants next door.

The firm and its agents are deliberately pricing the houses competitively for quick sales. At Annington Gardens, in Basingstoke, three-bedroom semis sell for £70,000 and four-bedroom detached houses for £93,000.

Despite the bargains on offer, the buying process may not be smooth. David Cooper, a 41-year-old who works in imaging, is about to exchange on a four-bedroom, semi-detached house at the former Basingstoke barracks in south Cambridgeshire. The £96,950 house was being sold by the estate agents



Katie Waters outside her house near Bicester, Oxfordshire. "Space is its biggest asset"

Bairstow Eves on behalf of Annington Homes, but Mr Cooper initially could not find out the price of the house despite visiting the showhome on the site. He was later told by Bairstow Eves that there were 30 buyers competing for the four four-bedroom houses on the estate. He was so anxious not to miss out on one of the homes that he camped out overnight at the site. "I have been left with a sour taste in my mouth, even though it looks as though I will be able to buy this house," he says. He feels the over-hyping of the properties was not helpful.

Some estates are near weapon-testing sites. Most are on isolated sites, far away from large towns. Complaints that shops, pubs and restaurants are not nearby have been expressed by many, and those

without cars can find themselves stranded. Most homes are basic in the extreme: utilitarian boxes with no architectural frills.

Annington Homes has carried out few renovations on the houses in Basingstoke, although there are replacement windows, new kitchens and fitted carpets. But the cast-iron heating pipework remains, drains and sewage systems are untouched and there are still few electric sockets.

At Fairmead Park, near Huntingdon, Welbeck Homes has not carried out any repairs at all; the houses are

unchanged from the 1950s. Buyers must at times take pot luck and choose a house before renovation.

Katie Waters, 23, is a trainee midwife who moved into Annington's estate near Bicester, Oxfordshire, last November.

"When I first saw the show home I thought 'Wow, I'll take it', but then I realised that the real houses were a bit different. I had to choose my house before it was renovated, so I didn't know what to expect."

"Buyers should have the cash to do the repair work," says Welbeck's Mr Bamber. "We are very honest about the drawbacks of ex-service houses and we try to help our cus-



Annington Homes' Amber Village is an estate of former married quarters, near Bicester

HOUSES ON PARADE

repairs and renovation. There is more work to be done, but she is in no hurry. "I can take my time with all of that — I'm just lucky to have been able to buy this house," she says.

With 60 per cent of residents first-time buyers, the atmosphere on the estate is friendly, and there are many other children. Facilities are not ideal, but could be worse: "I'm glad that I have a car; you certainly can't walk to the shops. There is a kids' play park nearby, but it is falling into disrepair."

The space available in the house is its biggest asset, she says. "Compared to the shoeboxes I looked at in Bicester, this house is wonderful; the rooms are really spacious. And on the budget I had, and for a first home, it's close to perfect."

Miss Waters has so far spent £5,000 on

repairs and renovation. There is more work to be done, but she is in no hurry. "I can take my time with all of that — I'm just lucky to have been able to buy this house," she says.

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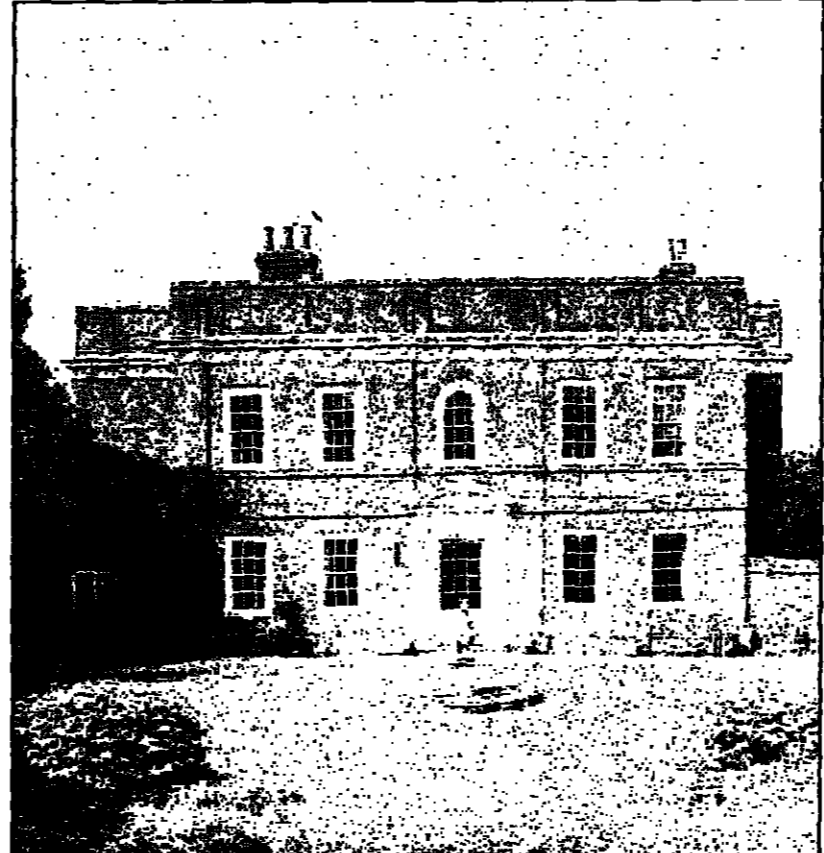
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مركز من الأهل



# Guru to New York's pampered pooches

**G**eorgie the labrador spends much of the day on the balcony of a penthouse in Manhattan, with views across the Hudson. But his excitement erupts when Martin MacKinnon arrives because it means it's time for a walk.

**PETS**  
**Andrew Morgan**  
meets a dog-walker to the rich and famous

Mr MacKinnon, a former forester on the Isle of Skye, has established himself as New York's leading dog-walker, with many clients living in multimillion-dollar apartments near Central Park.

There are 45 dogs on his books, including weimaraners and a Bernese mountain dog. His reputation goes before him. Daryl Hannah, the actress, recently left a telephone message asking him to walk her dogs while she was in New York, after a recommendation from Robert De Niro's dog-walker. Sadly, Mr MacKinnon was away and the actress had left by the time he got back. "But I still have the message to prove she called," he says. Georgie's owners struck up an

immediate rapport with Mr MacKinnon and had no qualms about giving him a key to their apartment. "He loves all the dogs, which is the reason we let Georgie go with him," says the owner. Like others in security-conscious New York, she requests anonymity. Mr MacKinnon writes codes and colours on the keys, but never addresses or names. Such diligence cements his status, as does his affinity with animals.

"He plays with them as if he were a dog himself and they get a level of exercise unheard of in New York," adds Georgie's owner. "He runs for hours with the dogs while other walkers might give them 30 minutes at most. He gives them so much attention that the dogs are crazy about him."

Mr MacKinnon concentrates on "fun dogs" and fights shy of neurotic owners who would get upset if their dog returned wet and dirty.

Like many New Yorkers, Georgie's owners walk him before leaving for the office. Mr MacKinnon takes care of day-time exercise, with the two of them walking every day for an hour in Central or Riverside Park. "Because we're so busy, Georgie only gets real exercise when Martin takes him out," says the dog's owner. "We live in the city but Georgie gets more exercise than most country dogs."

One of his other stars, a retriever, belongs to a leading socialite. Such people demand the best, and Diann Duhie, a film-set designer with a labrador, labels Mr MacKinnon as New York's dog-walking guru. "He gives dogs a quality of life that no



Martin MacKinnon braves the mean streets of New York on his way to Central Park with his four-legged charges

other walker can offer," she says. Mr MacKinnon already has other dogs with him when he meets Georgie, who weighs 120lb, including a rottweiler and another labrador. Once outside, eyes turn towards him as his gang pulls him towards the park.

Exercise levels are geared to each dog, with older ones given shorter runs. However, a three-legged mongrel called Tricycle still remains one of the fastest.

On an average day, Mr MacKinnon walks about 20 dogs, in several shifts, covering up to 25 miles a day no matter what the weather. "I can get exhausted but I'm fine as long as I keep going," he says. "My batteries fall as soon as I sit down."

Once in Central Park, he heads for secret stores of tennis balls he keeps in trees. This booty is down to a retriever, which finds them near the park's tennis courts. The dogs are even allowed a swim in the lake. "Occasionally, I'm not in the mood but it's great to

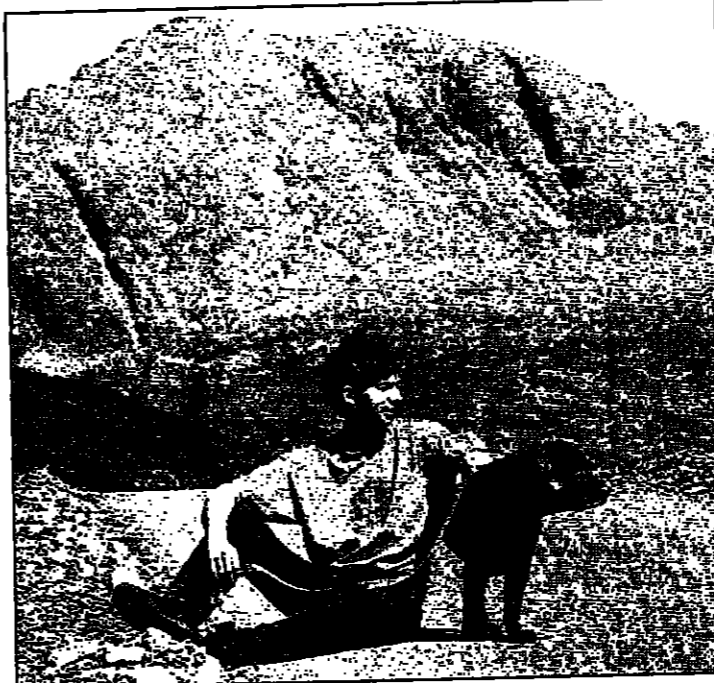
think that I make a living playing with dogs." Many owners take their puppies to expensive behaviour classes, but they still expect Mr MacKinnon to contribute to obedience training and stimulation. "I like my clients as people and would be happy to have a beer with them. It's that bond which makes it easier walking their dogs," he says.

Indeed, the relationship with his second client, Felicia Telsey, grew into romance and then marriage.

Mr MacKinnon's weekly income can reach \$1,000 (£625), with a charge of \$15 per dog per walk. Only once has he refused to exercise a dog again — after it ran out of Central Park and across busy streets. "That was scary and I wouldn't have the confidence to let it go again," he explains.

While working in Central Park, he makes a point of steering clear of other dog-walkers to avoid confrontation. He also scoops up his dogs' mess in plastic bags.

"I'm making good money and having fun being outside," he says. "I say 'God bless America.'"



Mr MacKinnon, with his dog Murdoch, on a trip to the Isle of Skye

**A VET WRITES**

**Q** Our pony, Beauty, lives in a field with a laurel hedge on one side. Beauty eats its leaves from time to time. Are they toxic and how much would she have to eat to do any damage?

**A** Laurel leaves contain tiny quantities of prussic acid. Butterfly collectors once used crushed laurel leaves in a sealed jar as a way of killing the insects without damaging their wings. The heaviest butterfly known weighs less than one ounce. A small pony is nine thousand times heavier. There's not enough room in Beauty's stomach to accommodate the huge quantities of laurel needed to poison her so the odd nibble from the hedge won't harm her.

**Q** Bert, my middle-sized cross-bred terrier, is just 12 months old. He has never had his nails cut. How often should this be done?

**A** If Bert is a typical busy terrier, he'll keep his nails worn down to the correct length by his daily activities. Tiny, lightweight dogs living on deep-pile carpets develop overgrown nails but I'm sure Bert has a different lifestyle. Walking on pavements or hard ground and digging holes will act as his nail files. Toe nails should extend to a quarter circle and the tip of the nail should be flattened, showing it is in contact with the ground and being worn down.

**Q** My cat's vet and the cattery insist that my cat gets an annual booster for flu and enteritis. The last one made her ill for three days. Is it really necessary? She has had eight so far.

**A** After eight annual boosters your cat is probably well protected and there is no need to top up the antibodies. Some cats don't retain sufficient protection and a careful cattery is entitled to play safe and decide that all cats must have an annual booster. Vaccine reactions are extremely rare in cats. However, there are different types of injections and if last year's was a live vaccine, you could ask for a killed vaccine this time.

**JAMES ALLCOCK**

Write to *The Times Vet*, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

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**HUMBUG** is a 15-year-old female tabby cat who needs an owner. She is very affectionate, but needs a quiet home with no other pets. If you can offer Humbug a loving home, please contact Alan Maskell at the Blue Cross on 01223 350153.

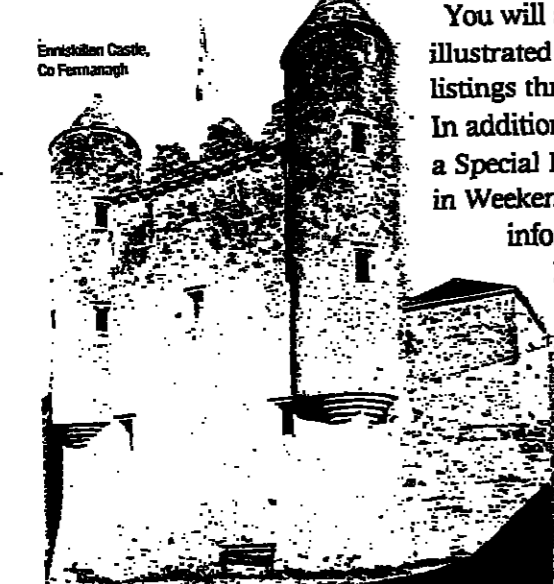
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From July to October, *The Times*, in association with worldwide financial experts Zurich Insurance, is giving you the opportunity to visit some of the nation's vast store of treasures, at greatly reduced prices, with our Passport to a Sensational Summer. We have selected more than 70 of the most fascinating events where you and your family can enjoy special concessions and discounts, including two for the price of one admission and free entry for children, representing savings of up to £200 to Passport holders.



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Simply collect six of the seven tokens published in *The Times* this week, the first appeared in the Weekend section last Saturday, June 27. Send them, with the coupon, right, and a C5-size sae and a first class stamp, to: *The Times* Zurich Passport Guide, Spero Communications, Meridian Gate, Marsh Wall, London, E14 9YT. Please allow 20 days for delivery.

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**CHANGING TIMES**

ص: زامن الأصل

our pony. Beauty lives in a field with a laurel tree on one side. Beauty is covered in time as it would be the laurel and how it damage...

Q: My 11-year-old middle child is a very bright child. He has been reading for years. How do I encourage him to read more?

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The more I looked at that photograph of 28 smiley children and one scowling thundercloud, the crosser I got!

# Every picture tells a story

## LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

Midsummer is only just past, but already it feels as though the year has begun to ripen. In Greenwich Park the horse chestnut trees are covered in clusters of adolescent conkers as big as apricots, and on Blackheath, the long grass has been mown, so that a bucolic smell of haymaking rises from the ground, mixed with the engine fumes of the roaring Dover Road.

I wonder whether to be piqued by this, but then, remembering my own News and Story efforts at about this age ("We had to do the washing up. Then we had to tidy our rooms. Then we had to pick up all the apples on the ground in the garden...") I decide that I am grateful.

think it was funny. In fact, the more I looked at that photograph of 28 good smiley children and one scowling thundercloud, the crosser I got. "Strike a light Alexander?" I grumbled. "Why did you do it? They don't charge extra if you smile, you know." Alexander favoured me with a blacker version of the thundercloud expression and returned silently to his Marmite soldiers and his Beano (the particularly dislikes conversation at breakfast).

unable to resist looking through all the other stuff that was in there. At the bottom of the pile of Alexander's baby pictures was a photograph of my grandfather, taken at Hatfield Broad Oak Primary School in 1910. He is probably a year or so older than Alexander, and is wearing an odd combination of clothes: moleskin breeches, a thick tweed coat and waistcoat, done up to the neck, although it is clearly summer, and a stiff Eton collar. In his hand is a peaked tweed cap. He looks like a very small gamekeeper. He sits up straight on a wooden chair and smiles at the camera. But if you cover his upturned mouth, the expression in his eyes is wary.

A rising seven, the great sorrow of Alexander's life is the fact that someone else bought the Thomas the Tank Engine video that he'd set his heart on at the school fete. At rising eight, my grandfather, a founding discoverer in an alley behind King's Cross Station by a passing policeman, was a veteran of St Pancras Workhouse.

sensible you turn out to be." At 11, my grandfather put on his Eton collar and sat a scholarship examination for a place at Bishop's Stortford Grammar School which he won, but was unable to take up, because he would have been a charge upon the parish. At 13 he was sent to the training ship *Exmouth*, and at 16, when my son will have half a decade's education still before him, my grandfather, missing by a couple of months the chance to fight for his country, joined his first ship, *HMS Lion*.

# Are your children ready to go solo?

As the school summer holidays burst upon us, many parents are anxiously pondering the logistics of their children having to travel unaccompanied across the country and even across other countries.

## Travelling alone has risks says Liz Gill, but can teach children self-sufficiency

the Catholic boarding school in Somerset. Their solution, if Andrew cannot take the boys himself on the lengthy round trip by car and ferry, is to engage an escort from Universal Aunts, an agency originally set up to shepherd children around the Empire.

adolescents. Children are targets for all sorts of naughty people as well as other possible hazards — getting lost, missing connections, losing their money or being in a situation that is beyond them.



Chloe and Jonathan Myerson. 'I treat my daughter like a son: as the boys will learn to cook, so Chloe must learn to paint a wall and drill a hole'

As divorce, employment trends and housing needs scatter families and friends far and wide the need for children to travel independently has never been greater. And despite some parents' darkest fears, quite young children can travel safely and reliably.

Such robust views on children learning to be independent do not find an echo everywhere. Parents who themselves would have roamed unsupervised are now anxious chaperons to their own offspring. According to the Policy Studies Unit, the number of children travelling unaccompanied to school had plunged from 80 per cent in 1971 to a mere eight per cent in 1991 — and all the indications are that the trend continues.

- MINIMUM AGES**
- The age at which children may travel alone differs according to the type of transport used. Parents should, however, check with individual companies.
- Trains:** National Rail Inquiries says there is no minimum age. Some companies may offer special child facilities. These include Great North Eastern Railways, Central Trains and Great Western Trains — which recommends that children sit in coach E, which becomes, on most weekends or during school holidays, a family coach.
- Airlines:** most airlines will escort minors from check-in to their flight and, on landing, from the plane to be met. Unaccompanied minors pay a full adult fare.
- Coaches and buses:** National Express Coaches will not take unaccompanied children under 16.
- London Underground:** no minimum age.
- Licensed taxis:** any child can hail or telephone for a cab.
- Ferries:** P&O allow children of 14 and over to travel alone as foot passengers, provided they have a letter of authority from a parent or guardian.

Putting a child on a coach used to be the answer. That system was dealt a blow at the end of 1996 when National Express stopped allowing unaccompanied under-16s on any of its 250 routes. The decision was prompted, says Kevin Bennett, director of marketing, by an incident where an eight-year-old travelling between London and Northampton got off the coach at Milton Keynes and disappeared briefly.



# The new Daddy's girl

## Madeleine Kingsley reports on the way girl power is changing relationships between fathers and daughters

You could almost believe that Richard Olivier, director son of the late Lord Larry, had timed his pioneering "weekend adventure" for fathers and daughters as a loud statement of priorities.

Through looks and mystery and things unsaid, a father's task is always to give his daughter what the psychologist Andrew Samuels calls erotic feedback. Whenever a father feels that flirtatious energy directed at him, he should mirror it back with understanding, but absolutely not acting out. You convey: "Yes, you are lovely; I love you too and someday another, and appropriate man, will pick up that flirtatious link."

needing to be wrested kicking and screaming from their ballet shoes towards greasy car engines and legs-before-wicket. Olivier is the first to acknowledge that girls are enjoying "not only a time of more genuine freedom than they've had for centuries, but also more freedom than boys."

great relationship with her man." "In real life one should perhaps not think too deeply about what makes a good father. A daughter must simply be a piece of your heart," says *Dangerfield* actor Nadim Sawalha, father of three daughters, including two actresses, Nadia and Julia, 28, of *Ab Fab* fame. "But if I had to name one quality, I'd say unconditional love. But love alone could make you dreadfully manipulative, so it must be twinned with respect for your daughters' potential. You must give them freedom to flower as human beings. I told them repeatedly from day one how beautiful they were."

and, of our children (their two sons are nine and six), she's the one most like him." "I think what a father can do best," observes Jonathan Myerson, "is what the mother finds much harder to do because she's umbilically attached — and that is to provide discipline first and later to help children break free."



Unaccompanied children are travelling less as parents' worries increase





David Bowker spends a week on a diet — and finds himself praying to the god of small trousers for help

Does my bum look big in this?

Last Sunday, I noticed that my favourite jeans had shrunk in the wash. No matter how deeply I breathed in, I was unable to fasten them. I tried a different pair. The same problem. It was extraordinary. All my trousers had shrunk simultaneously. I complained to my wife, who suggested carefully that exercise might be the answer. So I arranged my trousers in a semi-circle and ordered them to do sit-ups. They ignored me and continued to laze about on the floor, which was no help to me whatsoever. I went to the swimming baths with my family. My trunks didn't fit so I was forced to wear a one-piece Edwardian bathing costume that my wife bought for me when she was drunk. Oddly enough, the costume wasn't as roomy as it used to be. "Am I getting too big for this?" I asked my wife. She said: "What? The costume or the pool?" As I dived in, I couldn't help noticing that the water level rose alarmingly. I have never counted calories. Mainly because I come from a long line of working-class Northerners who equate obesity

and heart disease with good health. And who can't count. "You're looking well," we say to each other as we meet at yet another funeral. "Have a sausage." So far, I have eaten unwisely without paying the price. But on Sunday, I knew that I had reached a crossroads. I was seven pounds overweight. I could either buy new trousers or go on a diet. Being night-fisted, I opted for the diet. An ex-girlfriend's mother had an unusual approach to dieting. Whenever she wanted to shed a few tons, she removed temptation by embarking on an orgy of gluttony. She would empty the larder and the freezer of sugar-filled delights, set them on a table and stuff her face. I saw her eat a whole black forest gâteau at a single sitting. Nowadays, of course, we can recognise that this unfortunate woman was suffering from an eating disorder. In less enlightened times,



SEVEN LONG DAYS

would I want to do that?" he demanded. "It'll help you to lose some of that fat," I told him. Ted looked bemused. "What fat?" he said. "There's nothing wrong with my figure." I said: "There's nothing wrong with mine." Ted said: "Well, what do we need to go running for then?" By Thursday I had made no real progress. I had sampled the Mars Bar diet, the Cambridge diet, the Boiled Egg diet and the Scarsdale diet. I had tried all four diets at the same time, but to no avail. My trousers were still too tight. In desperation, I tried starving myself. That evening my meal consisted of an apple and a glass of mineral water, followed by a prayer to the god of small trousers. I went to bed and lay awake thinking about the weight I was losing. Then I thought about my son's Smarties. Then I thought about my weight again. But the Smarties were too strong for me.



WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

**JULY 10-12**  
Yogaland Ayurveda. At the Yoga Centre, Chesham, Surrey (0181-644 0309) Price £90.  
Photography: Drawing for the terrified. Pottery: Multi-activity weekends in Snowdonia with canoeing, abseiling, climbing and rafting. Walking weekends. In various Welsh locations with Aconon Activities of Hereford (01432 83063). Prices from £120-£164.  
Multi-activity breaks for over-16s. At the YHA Activity Centre, Edale, Derbyshire (01433 670302). Price, two nights full board, £95.  
Apocalypse Now: Grasses and flowering plants. At the University of Cambridge Board of Continuing Education, (01954 210636). Price £12.  
The shaping of modern Spain: East Midlands bobbins races. At the Mayland College, Leighton Street, Wourm, Beds (01526 292901). Price per course £99 residential, £76 non-residential.  
Conservation breaks. Help maintain the countryside with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers of Wallingford, Oxon (01491 839766). Prices from £15.  
Tale of gardening break in Leicestershire. From £134, full board. Details and bookings from Leicestershire Promotions on 0116-254 7400.  
The plays of Anton Chekhov: Non-fiction writing: Fabric work: Northamptonshire kaleidoscope. At Kinston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). Prices from £92.  
Be your own financial adviser: English folk heroes: Writing comedy for television: Rag rugs. Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). Price £159 residential, £69 non-residential.  
Picasso: Walking the moorlands. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course £70, inclusive.  
Walling in flint and stone: Calligraphy: Traditional upholstery: Cane and rush seating. At the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price per course £150, residential.  
The Pembrokeshire Coast and offshore islands. From the Dale Fort Field Studies Centre, Haverfordwest (01646 636205). Price £184 residential, £144 non-residential.  
Close-up nature photography: Botanical illustration. At the Loshill Hall Peak District National Park Centre, Castleton, Derbyshire (01433 620373). From £125, full board. Brochure available.



Apocalypse Now at the University of Cambridge Board of Continuing Education next weekend

Native American chief. Price £45. Accommodation (01672 513989) from £25 per night. B&B. Call Wiltshire Crop Circle Study Group on 01380 860759.  
Heretics and crusaders in the Languedoc. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120.  
Punting weekend on the River Cherwell at Oxford. From the Studley Priory Hotel (01865 351613). Price £185 for two nights.  
Mountain biking in the Trossachs, with Trossach Backpackers of Callander (01877 331200). Overnight accommodation in the Venacher Activity Centre, from £10 per night. B&B. Cycle hire from £15.  
National go-boating weekend throughout Britain with the British Marine Industries Federation and the Royal Yachting Association. Prices and details on 0345 668844.  
The World Wide Web for business or pleasure: Golf for beginners. At the Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). Web course £92, golf £122. In search of the red kite: Water plants. At the Field Studies Council Preston Montford Centre, Shrewsbury (01743 850380). Price £107 residential, £85 non-residential.  
Ways with watercolours: Meditation to quieten the mind. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105); £70 all inclusive.

Butterflies and moths: Improve your botany: Improve your oil painting. Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Price £140 residential, £110 non-residential.  
Multi-activity weekends, canoeing, mountain-biking, raft-building, climbing and abseiling. At the Old Vicarage Activity Centre, Stottesdon, near Kidderminster, Worcs (01746 718436). Price £63.  
Out and about with a sketchbook: Parchment craft. At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01495 333777). Price per course £88, all-inclusive.  
Computers (Serif Page Plus): Pastels for beginners: Small frame tapestry weaving: Learn to swim. Gilbert White's Natural History: Improvers' Bridge. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price from £149 residential, £113 non-residential.  
Wild Places — Shropshire's secret garden: Understanding scenery in the south Shropshire hills. At the Preston Mount Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury (01743 850380). Price per course from £105 residential, £75 non-residential.  
Jane Austen and Mrs Gaskell: King Lear — practical reading and dramatising. At Maryland College, Woburn, Bedfordshire (01525 292901). Price per course £99 residential.  
Close harmony in barbershop singing: Computer course: Flowers in watercolour and gouache. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Sussex (01798 865306). Price from £114 residential, £90 non-residential.  
Writing — a practical guide: Decoupage: China painting. At Pendrell Hall College, Codsall Wood, Wolverhampton, Staffs (01902 434112). Price from £86 residential, £60 non-residential.  
Look out for mammals: Mammal identification workshop: Butterflies and moths: Nocturnal natural history — badgers and bats. At the Field Studies Council Centre, Stapton Ley, Kingsbridge, Devon (01548 580466). Price from £105 residential, £79 non-residential.  
Folk dancing. At the Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151 336 5172). Price £98 inclusive.  
Canoeing. At the Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Fawley, Hants (01703 892077). Adults £120, under-18s £85, full board.  
ROBIN NEILLANDS

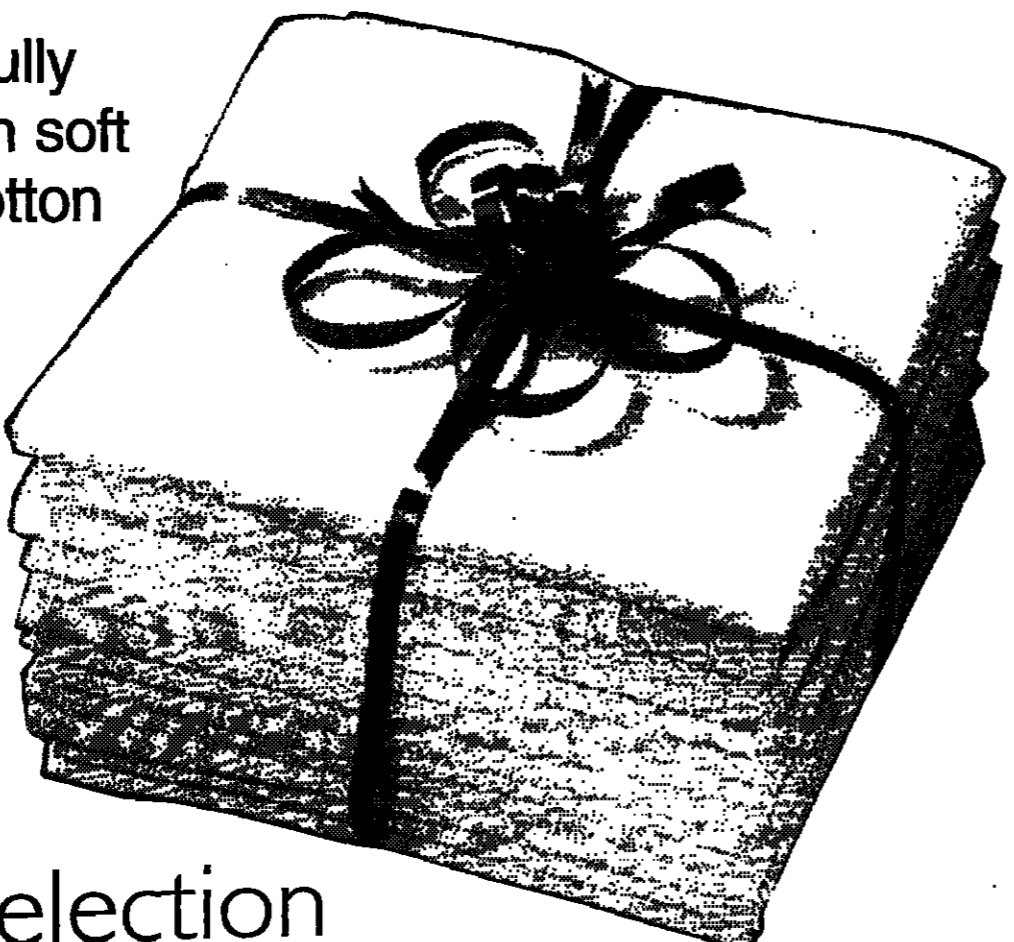
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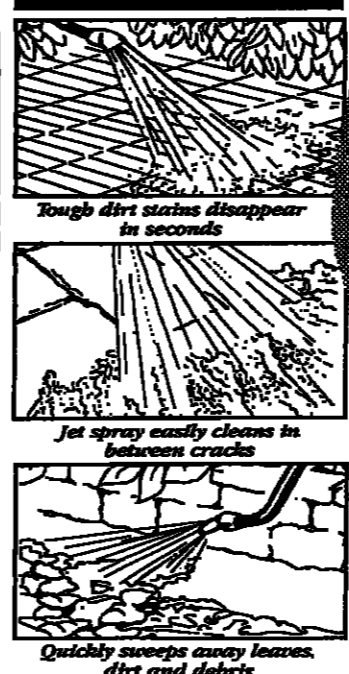
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Can the Amish community survive?

Pennsylvania • 27

# THE TIMES TRAVEL

Raving it up on the streets of Berlin

The Love Parade • 28



## Are we nearly there yet, mummy?

Travelling with youngsters is no trouble if you follow our A-Z guide. By Jill Crawshaw

**AIRPORTS.** Get there early to request the best seats, usually the bulkhead seats (behind the partition) where your family and its paraphernalia are less likely to spread around the plane and the kids to kick hell out of the passengers in front. Prepare for airport delays by carrying emergency rations of snacks and small fruit-juice cartons. Wrist-leads, rather like dog leashes, can prevent you from mistaking wandering toddlers during the frenzy.

**BABY BUGGIES.** With peak-season delays and miles of airport corridors to negotiate, hang on to the buggy until reaching the steps of the plane, where it may be put into the hold. If a buggy is unsuitable for your destination, take a backpack for babies.

**CARRYCOTS** for babies are supplied by some airlines — ask in advance. They are often called slycots and look like large cardboard boxes. British Airways has cots for babies up to nine months. Britannia's Boeing 757s carry just one and 767s have three, for babies under six months.

**DON'T** leave it until you get there to make sure your hire car has a child seat. Availability varies from country to country, and local firms may not have enough in peak season, so you must pre-book them. Charges vary: Hertz, for example, has a one-off rental fee of £20 at Nice, mainland Spain is £17.50, while in Athens it costs £1.40 per day.

**EN ROUTE** for the Med by car? If you are one of the drive-like-mad-down-the-Paris-Rhin-Rhône, autoroute set, get hold of maps and leaflets about the Relais-Bébé centres in service stations and rest areas. These offer clogs and bouncy castles to entertain children for free while you fill up with petrol, and even provide meals and nappies. Details on 0891 24423 (50p per minute).

**FIRST-AID KITS** Make your own with insect repellent, calamine lotion, oral rehydration sachets, painkillers, antiseptic and disinfectant wipes, plasters and bandages, zinc and castor oil, sunscreen lotion and antihistamine.

**GADGETS** that make life easier. A lightweight "Pack 'n' Play" travel cot from Mothercare (£79.99) weighs



Children's exposure to the sun needs monitoring

13.6kg and doubles as a playpen; portable highchairs that clamp on to tables, or cushions that stop children falling out of chairs cost £29.99 and £13.99 respectively from Thomas Cook (0870 6060036 mail order). Disposable bottle sterilisers (Mothercare £6.99); Boots bottle and baby food warmer (£9.95) plugs into the car cigarette lighter.

**HOTELS** recommended include the Logis de France chain of 3,700 reasonably priced establishments. Most offer family rooms and Menus Enfants for Fr50 (£5). Many will also provide three courses of regional cooking for Fr30-120. Double-room prices range from Fr220-320, often with cot or extra bed. The Logis de France 1948 guide is available from the French Travel Centre, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL at £11.90 (£12.90 by post).

**I WANT** to go off on my own this summer" is the disturbing statement many teenagers come up with. Nip



The secret to keeping children happy and occupied while on holiday is to be prepared. Remembering to bring certain vital items will ensure peace is maintained — perhaps even for a whole fortnight

hitch-hiking in the bud by collecting information on travel passes. Inter-Rail Passes available from main line stations allow unlimited travel by rail within Europe (or try Campus Travel 0171-730 3402); Euro-lines (0990 143219) has a similar coach pass. YHA membership (01727 845047) costs £5 annually for under-18s. £10 for those over 18, providing access to more than 5,000 budget hostels worldwide. Useful leaflets from STA (0171-361 0100).

**JET LAG.** Make sure children get plenty of rest and bland food the day before travelling to minimise its effect.

**KOOSHIES** or Aquanappies are new swimming pants/nappies that can prevent embarrassment in hotel pools and on the beach. Kooshies from Mothercare (£7.99), Aquanappies from Thomas Cook (£5.99).

**LAST-MINUTE** family holidays in peak season can still be found. Try Thomson Superfamily (0990 143503) or First Choice (0161-742 2228).

**MOTHERS COMFORTS.** otherwise known as bribes, can appease restless toddlers and help everyone survive the journey. Make up a surprise bag of goodies to produce during stressful moments: boiled sweets, cheap toys, cards, crisps, colouring books.

**NAPPIES.** Take double what you need for the journey, plus a 24-hour supply for arrival, but buy the majority in the resort. Pack a full holiday supply of zinc and castor oil to treat nappy rash.

**ONE-PARENT** Family Holidays (OPFH), the charitable organisation for single parents, still has room during July and August on its camping trips based at Amboise in the Loire Valley. The cost of two weeks' accommodation in a large, fully equipped tent, travelling by Eurostar, is £230.50 for an adult, £130.50 for a child under 12. Call OPFH on 01465 821288.

**PASSPORTS** will be required for all children under 16 from October 5. Until then, children can have their own or be added to their parents' passports. Children already included on parents' passports can continue to travel on them if accompanied by the parent until they reach the age of 16. The charge for a child's passport valid for five years is £11 by postal application, £10 for personal callers.

Forms from main post offices: applications take one to three weeks.

**QUIZZES, puzzles, card games** and games are invaluable during the journey and on grouchy weather days. *Puzzle Holiday* (Usborne, £4.50) has 32 pages of games for those aged four and over. This summer's bestseller is the computerised *Play Your Own World Cup soccer game* (£16.99). There is even a penalty shoot-out tiebreaker. Parents' favourites: *The First Thousand Words in French/Spanish* sticker books (Usborne, £4.99). All items available from Thomas Cook.

**READ** *Travel with Children* (Lonely Planet, £6.95) by Maureen Wheeler, who has survived the experi-



Water babies can take a dip in swimming nappies

ence and clearly had fun doing so. Third edition available at the end of this month.

**SUNSCREENS** are vital for children. Babies under six months should be kept out of the sun altogether. Among useful products is *Bonix* easy-to-apply Baby Sunan Roll-On SPF 30 (£4.99). Clip a parasol to pushchairs or cots. Mothercare has a cool broderie-anglaise version (£17.99) which adjusts in any angle. Boots also has a range of surf-suits, swimsuits and other sun-protective clothing for small children.

**THROW OUT** half the luggage you intended to take and start again. It is a fact of life that the smallest member of the family requires the most luggage — and has no baggage allowance. Clothing, particularly in hot countries, can be kept to a minimum, as most items can be washed and dried there. Take cotton rather than artificial fabrics and include garments that protect the head, arms and legs from

the sun. Checklist for babies: baby-grows; baby monitor; bottles and sterilising equipment; bowl, spoon and beaker; buggy and/or sling; cotton sheets and clothing; two rubber sheets; first-aid kit; formula milk; nappies; reins; sunburn protection; scissors; swimming aids; rubbish bags for nappies; vacuum flask; zinc and castor oil cream.

**ULTIMATE** in sun protection — the "Pod" — is not a lotion, but the award-winning mini-tent for infants that filters out 97 per cent of harmful UV rays, protects from wind and glare, and is spacious enough to allow a parent inside. It is also useful for the garden, weighs just one kilo and folds down to 65cm (Thomas Cook, £49.95).

**VACCINATIONS.** Allow plenty of time to phase them all in — *Holiday Which?* recommends two months. Some may be available on the NHS but you have to pay prescription charges. Travel clinics are normally quicker but more expensive, and charge different rates. British Airways, for example, has 44 clinics around the country; call 01276 685040 for details.

**WHEN** should you start travelling with children? Answer: from birth. It is probably the last time you have full control of the creature, and since the newborn does not mind whether he or she is being taken to Seville or Sorrento, the world is your oyster. A big plus is that on many holidays they travel free until they are two years old.

**X-RAYS** and other medical treatment can be expensive. Complete form E111, available from the Post Office, which provides basic emergency cover in most European countries. It is also wise to take out travel insurance: children are free on some policies. The Department of Health leaflet *Health Advice for Travellers* details risk and costs; call 0800 555777.

**YOUR** Child's Health Abroad (Bradt Publications, £8.95), by Dr Jane Wilson-Howarth and paediatrician Dr Matthew Ellis, offers practical no-nonsense advice. Basic medical questions are translated into five languages.

**Zzzzz!** To help children sleep on the plane, have a calm day before travelling, and dress them in loose clothing for the journey. Child-size and baby inflatable pillows cost £3.99 from Thomas Cook.



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\*Price per adult for inside 4 berth cabin cruise 889 inclusive of discount. We have set aside cabins at selected grades on various autumn cruise holidays which are available for the above discount. Once sold the fare for the grade and cruise will revert to the low-hire fare. Not available at every grade on every holiday. Subject to availability.



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CYCLING IN IRELAND: A WEEKEND BREAK

**Andrew Eames needed plenty of Guinness for his long and winding tour of the southwest**

**S**tage One. London, 8am: This is the really hard part. Deposit the children with the neighbours.

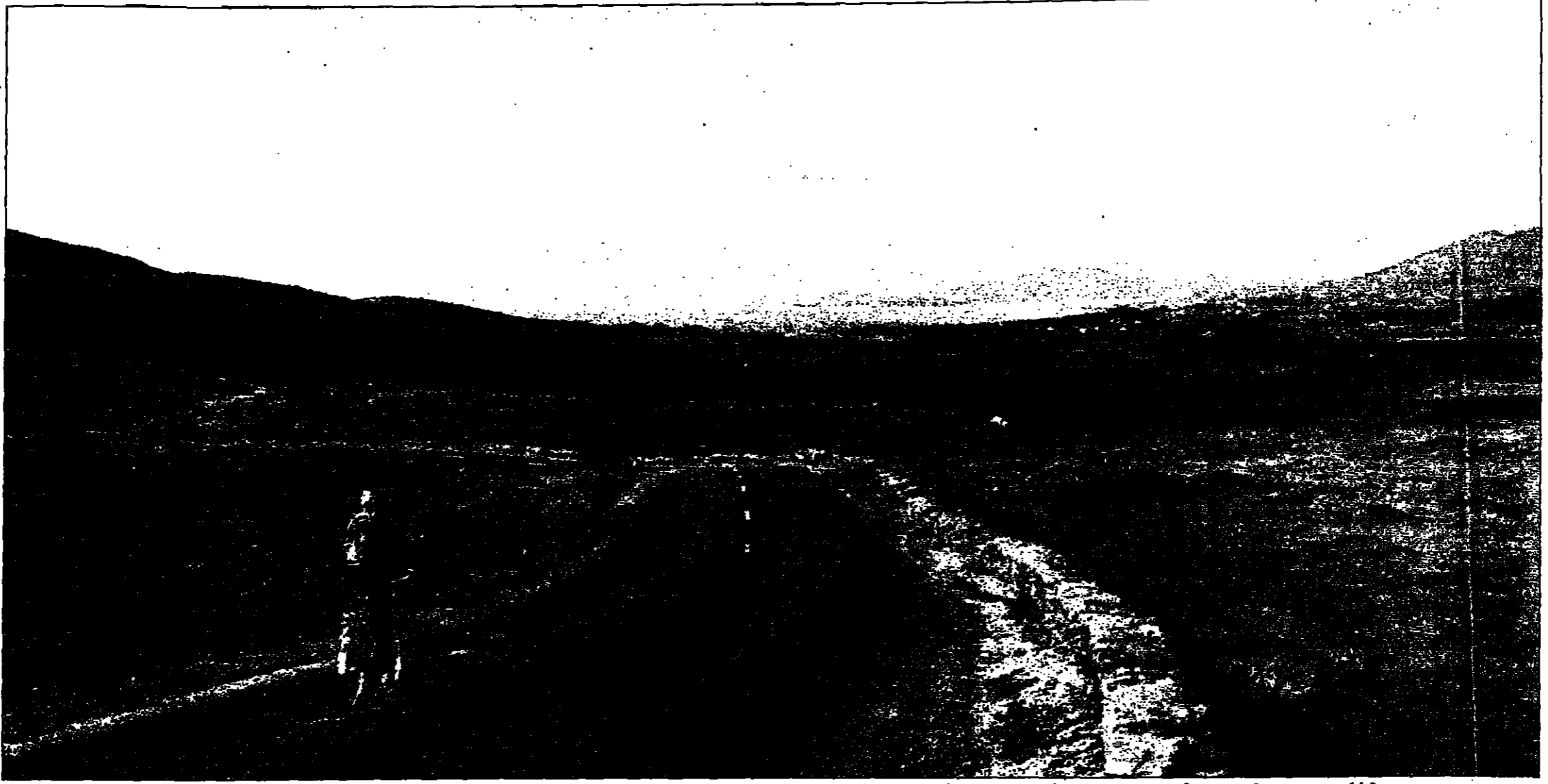
Stage Two. Cork, 12.30pm: arrive from Gatwick. An empty pint glass stands by the luggage carousel. Perhaps that is a special airport service: be met by a full pint of Guinness. The Tour de France's first stage will end in a blaze of sirens at this blousy, cheerful capital of southwest Ireland, but our own petit tour begins out on the rumbled green eiderdown that lies beyond.

Stage Three. Skibbereen, 3.30pm: The bus stops for anyone, although the old gent who had bought a return ticket for his lawnmower is cruelly disappointed: the driver will not take it because of the petrol tank. The landscape becomes gradually more knobbly and the villages smell of coal as we get further west.

The town of Skibbereen seems to be trying to distance itself from painful history. Its main street puts on a brave show of primary coloured paint, but the town trail details the potato famine of 150 years ago. Around a quarter of the population in these parts died, and many more emigrated.

We find Mr Roycroft lurking in a cavern full of bicycles on Ilen Street. He is a rare Irishman — a man of few words. But he has opened up specially for us, his bicycles have more gears than we could ever find a use for and he throws in the panniers for free.

Stage Four. On the Road, 4.30pm: The pleasure of getting under way has us making a ballyhoo on the road to Ballydeob. Tour de Francers would not be seen dead naming their steeds, but we reckon O'Bicycle has its appeal. Kicking off into the lanes above Roaringwater Bay increases the hedgerow smells and birdsong. The bay below is littered with an eyebrow-shaped pattern of buoy-attached mussels. It looks like a ploughed, shimmering field. In among the pastoral beauty there is disturbing laneside evidence of famine, with ruined ivy-clad farmhouses and cillin



The open roads and dramatic landscapes of Co. Cork are perfect for a weekend cycling break. Travelling on two wheels also means that you get to see far more than you would from a car

**Where the only fuel is the black stuff**

— mass burial grounds of unbaptized children. There is evidence of continuing poverty, too: one of the tumbledowns has a TV aerial sprouting from its cracked chimney, but there are no complete panes of glass in any of its windows. The sun soon goes over the yardarm, so we pause for a Guinness in Ballydeob. An old drunk at the bar points to the rings of froth on my empty glass. "Look at it," he says, "it's smiling at you." Fuelled by the black stuff, we do not trust ourselves on the main road, so run with the foxes on

the by-lanes to Schull. By 7.30pm we have secured a room at Murphy's B&B, a painful extra kilometre above the village, but which is blessed by rabbits just outside the window and a view across to Clear Island. Chased out of the pub by a smoky coal fire, we are asleep by 9pm.

Day Two, Stage Five. Schull, 8.30am: Unexpectedly, the village has a French restaurant, a video shop, a delicatessen and a coffee shop with well-thumbed copies of Hello! magazine. Tourism has long since overtaken fishing here, but

there is a remnant of a fleet in the harbour, and a few aproned blokes gutting dog-fish on the quay. We take the low road to Goleen, and find ourselves in the midst of cow rush-hour. Pondering such unanswerables as "why is it that cows always have diarrhoea?", we drift down to Derrylicary Quay, where calm, clear fingerlets of water are relaxing into deep fissures of rock. We have cycled blithely past several castles already, but the one here — Leamcon — is handsomely tall and in too

fine a position to ignore, so we leave the bikes and walk to the jaws of Toormore Bay. Leamcon was built in the 1470s, when the bay was a refuge for pirates and smugglers, but today the water is unusually still. We settle our shoulders against the castle's cold stones and ruminate on sea to the Fastnet Rock, a long way to go to change a lightbulb.

Stage Six. Toormore, 12.45pm: According to the map we have done no distance at all, but who cares? We are seeing far more than we ever would by car. In the coffee shop, just past a strange neolithic altar, the proprietor is breaking burnt bread into a bucket. "Hello, Molly-Polly," he shouts, waving the bucket out of the window. From behind the building comes a noise like someone excitedly abusing a rusty water pump. "Ah, donkeys," we mutter. The proprietor grins. "I'm just out to feed the mother-in-law."

Goleen is far more rustic than Schull. The old gent outside the Lobster Pot pub — flat caps and wellies de rigueur — seems perfectly sober, until he tries to trace a route on our map with his finger.

Stage Seven. Mizen Head, 3pm: Ireland's Land's End. Coincide with multiple American tourists disgorging themselves from rental cars. Presumably these are the descend-



It's not just tourists who favour the bicycle

ants of the painfully thin emigrants of a hundred years ago. They have certainly filled out since. "Aw, shucks," says one. "Look at that view." And it is awesome, far more dramatic than Land's End, the drama helped by a suspension bridge to the Mizen Head lighthouse.

The Signal Station has been turned into a charmingly amateurish visitor centre, all collections of birds' eggs and old photographs, with recordings of distant surf. But the real attraction lies outside the windows, in standing on the corner of Ireland and looking over the coast with its steep cliffs. We find a wind-free corner to eat our bread and cheese and watch the waves punch a small offshore rock on the nose. It seems fitting that this, the farthest point of Ireland, will also be the farthest point of our journey.

Stage Eight. Mrs Newman's B&B, 5pm: We have backtracked a handful of kilometres to Crookhaven, the last village in Ireland. On the way here my wife, Susanne, has been sufficiently deluded by the combination of fresh air, sunshine and the beautiful beaches of Barleycove Bay to strip off. I hear shrieking as she is hit by a wave, but wump out of rescue operations as my feet are about to drop off with frostbite from just paddling. Crookhaven clings like a limpet to the tip of a U-shaped promontory. The fishermen based here caught wreckage of the Air India disaster in their nets. Mrs Newman recommends the seafood chowder at Billy O'Sullivan's, so we wander down by the church, past a Breton seafood restaurant and a group of French yachtsmen. Billy O'Sullivan's has an equally strong French connection. When I express my surprise to find the last village in

Ireland so full of Gauls, the barman agrees. "I'm surprised myself," he says, in an accent straight out of Allo, Allo.

It turns out that the legacy of a turn-of-the-century French fish factory in Crookhaven has been bumped up recently by Billy O'Sullivan's owner living in Paris and recruiting his staff from there.

Day Three, Stage Nine, home-ward bound, 9am: Return journeys are invariably less fun. The hills seem that bit steeper, the wind deliberately churlish. A detour to the northern coast of the peninsula proves a touch bleak and exposed. We poke our noses into Dunmanus castle, which has a particularly bloody history, and find it full of cow dung.

We are back in Schull by noon. Mrs Newman had mentioned the lifetime of a midday bus from here which takes bicycles, but we decide we couldn't possibly. Pressing on, back through Ballydeob, we stick to the main roads for the easier gradients, but the traffic begins to get oppressive and it becomes a slog for home.

Stage Ten. Skibbereen, 2.30pm: We are four hours early for the evening bus and suffering from a surfeit of fresh air. Susanne visits the hairdresser and I buy a wooden lighthouse souvenir. In 1858 the future Edward VII stopped in Skib for a glass of milk, and his unwashed glass was put in a case and became the town's main tourist attraction.

Stage Eleven. back to Cork, 6.30pm: The journey rewinds via the bus, overnight in a B&B and then an early morning taxi to the airport.

Day Four, Stage Twelve. London, 10.30am: Pick up children from noble but worn-out neighbours. Retire to bed.

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CYCLING HOLIDAY FACT FILE

- Andrew Eames made his own travel arrangements. Graham Baxter Sporting Tours (01132 843617) and Celtic Trails (00 3531 6619546) have packages following the Tour de France in Ireland. For guided cycle tours of the west coast contact Go Ireland (0800 371203).
- Do-it-yourself Ryanair flies to Cork from Stansted five times daily, from £70 return (0541 569569). Aer Lingus flies from Heathrow four times daily, from £79 return (0181-899 4747). British Airways flies from Gatwick twice daily, from £89 (0345 222111).
- Bicycles are available from Roycroft in Skibbereen (00 3532 821235) at £6.40 per 24 hours. Or take a bus to Schull and hire bicycles from Coster's Yard (00 3532 828165).
- There are B&Bs along the Mizen Head peninsula: Mrs Murphy at Schull (00 3532 828466) charges £13.70 per person, and Mrs Newman at Crookhaven (00 3532 835137) charges £16.30.

The Royal Cities of Morocco

visiting Tangier, Tetouan, Chefchaouen, Fes, Volubilis, Meknes, Marrakesh, Casablanca & Rabat

Morocco contains some of the most spectacular scenery in North Africa, ranging from the coniferous forests and snow-capped mountains of the Atlas to the hot sand and stone deserts of the Sahara. Most towns and villages on this itinerary are memorable in one way or another — from the remarkably sited city of Fes wedged in a valley, its houses climbing up the slope on either side — to the ancient walled city of Marrakesh where Sir Winston Churchill loved to paint. Our journey around the Royal Cities begins in Tangier, that slightly secretive city that has over the years lost nothing of its Puerto Franco feel about it, then on to Fes via Tetouan and Chefchaouen towards the Atlas mountains to Marrakesh, Meknes, Casablanca, Rabat, and finally back to Tangier.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart London to Tangier and transfer to our hotel. Day 2 After sightseeing of Tangier depart for Fes via the Berber towns of Tetouan and Chefchaouen. Spend two nights in Fes. Day 3 Sightseeing will include the city ramparts, the old medina and snuk. Day 4 Drive to Marrakesh via Meknes and the magnificently sited Roman city of Volubilis. Stay two nights in Marrakesh. Day 5 Full day's sightseeing of Marrakesh. Day 6 Drive to Casablanca and for an overnight stay. Afternoon at

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leisure. Day 7 Morning visit of Casablanca then drive to Rabat, the capital, for sightseeing. Continue to Tangier for the night. Day 8 Fly in the afternoon to London.

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CYCLING IN IRELAND: FOLLOW THE EXPERTS

Taking in Eire from a bicycle saddle



Paul McQuaid at the head of a pack of cyclists in the 1995 Tour of Ireland, which he won. Now he leads cycling holidays — but don't worry, he takes you round at a more relaxed pace

I was on the tiny island of Inishbofin, a few miles off Ireland's west coast, that I rounded a corner and pedalled into a flock of sheep. I had been waiting for it to happen. Like most Irish clichés, this one about the roads — as seen on a hundred gift-shop postcards — where a bike is backed up behind a flock of sheep above the caption "Traffic jam in Ireland", had finally come true.

The Tour de France starts in Ireland next weekend, but competitors will be going too fast to admire the wonderful scenery. Jeremy Seal toured the west coast at a more leisurely pace, with a champion to guide him

alone. The World Cup Final on July 12 looks set to play second fiddle to the biggest sporting event (and biggest party) ever to be staged in Ireland. Competitive cycling has a passionate following here, home to legendary bicycling names like Sean Kelly and the winner of the 1987 Tour de France, Stephen Roche. But while Ireland will pass in a pedal-pumping blur for the Tour's 200-odd competitors, there are many cyclists who would argue that this is no place to race through. A less committed breed of pedaller, who believes that running into sheep jams is what cycling in Ireland is all about, comes

here to take all the time in the world, marvelling at the country's green, beguiling landscapes and its "soft" cycling weather, and to sample the sights, pubs and unscripted encounters along the way. The roads themselves are a particular attraction for cyclists, especially those from the more bustling corners of Europe and America. Safe and largely empty, this cycling timewarp is no twice fiction, as I discovered when I joined up-market cycling operators Celtic Trails for a week's touring in May in the west of Ireland through Connemara and Co Clare. Paul McQuaid of Celtic Trails, who has ridden all over the world, considers Irish drivers to be among the most attentive to cyclists anywhere in the world. There are black spots to avoid: the Ring of Kerry and Killarney can be filled with bumper-to-bumper coaches, and the Aran island of Inishmore's few roads tend to be overrun by cyclists, minibuses and consequent ill-feeling in the high season.



Nuns rowing — at an Irish tempo — on the lake at Kylemore Abbey, Co Galway

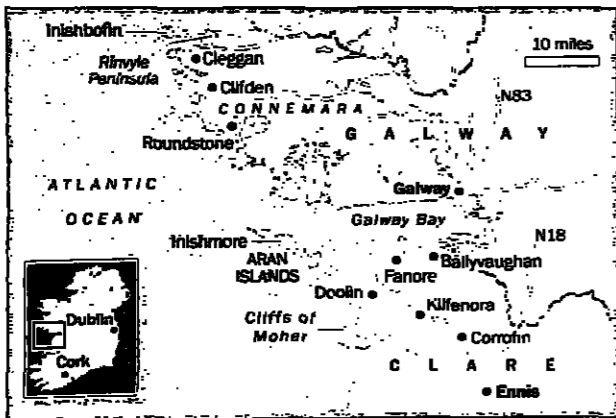
McQuaid has the advantage of coming from Ireland's most conspicuous cycling dynasty. He has eight siblings in the Irish bicycling business running bike shops, events, magazines and guides on the

folded. There was a poetically dilapidated church surrounded by a flourishing graveyard that, for want of space, had invaded the ruins of the building with a thicket of Celtic crosses. Over the graves, pieces of fishing net had been pegged to prevent the elaborate floral wreaths disappearing

ing on the westerly wind. A pattern of grey drystone walls ran down to the shore, and a sea paint-splattered with bright green islets, where cow morans stood flexing their long necks. The road beyond the island's only bar, where we stopped for lunch, dwindled to a rutted track. It led

above a beach which looked over to the island of Inish-shark. Inquisitive oyster catchers were investigating the message of love, "Clare X Seamus", which had been written in letters 12ft tall on the pure white sand. We left the quay back at Cleggan to cycle the 12 miles to that evening's destination on the remote Renvyle Peninsula. Light rain was falling. The hedges were heavy with fuchsia and rhododendron, and the waterlogged lowlands were stippled with yellow irises. We were staying at Renvyle House, an atmospheric — some say haunted — mock-Elizabethan pile that was once home to Oliver St John Gogarty, Irish revivalist man of letters, surgeon and politician. He was also a champion cyclist, pedalling 20 miles in a record 53 minutes in 1899. Our small group, mostly Americans, had settled into the sort of leisurely Irish rhythm that Renvyle House provided magnificently: log fires, pints of Guinness and protracted games of snooker.

fairly bridesmaids in white and ivory taffeta and silk were heading for their first communions. But Pat was lost in memories of the night before. "Just wait till I tell the guys back home," he exulted, dimpling on to his bike. As we cycled out of town, there were empty bottles of Jameson's in the window of the Clifden fish shop. Then there was 71-year-old Massimo, a Japanese-American retired postmaster from rural California who insisted on collecting a franking mark in his journal at every post office we passed. There are, we discovered, a lot of post offices in rural Ireland. By the end of the week, Massimo had collected about 20 franking marks. But he also met lots of Irish postmistresses, and hearing endless stories of country life. He cycled at the Irish tempo and was rewarded accordingly: a greater prize, you might say, than any achievement in the Tour de France.



CYCLING FACT FILE. Includes a list of hotels and services: ROSLEAGUE MANOR HOTEL, ROSE GOTTAGE, KYLEMORE ABBEY, Oceans Alive SEA CENTRE.

This is when your Irish guide comes in handy. Jeremy Seal travelled with Aer Lingus and Celtic Trails. Other Irish cycling operators: Go Ireland, Irish Cycling Safaris, Celtic Trails.

World Offers. Flight prices from: Jersey £69 rtn, Guernsey £59 rtn, Cork £80 rtn, Amsterdam £79 rtn, Zurich £130 rtn. Includes British Airways logo and contact information.

EUROlines great value coach travel to... Includes a table of destinations and prices for various countries like France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Denmark, etc.

# Even the police have a party in Lamu



There's always plenty of time for a new hairdo



CHILLING OUT IN... LAMU

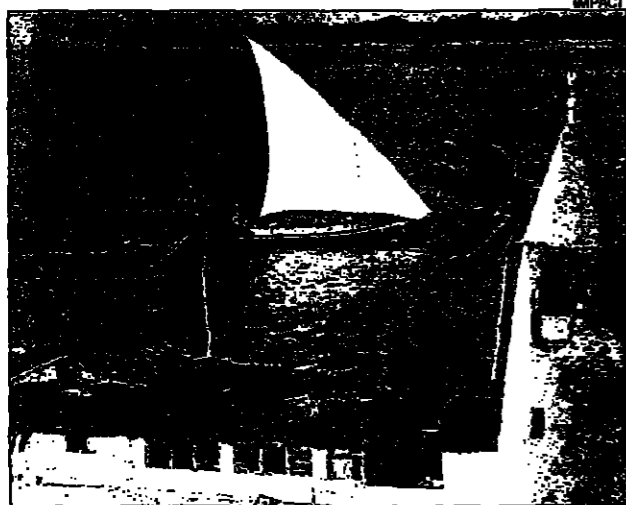
**Dodging donkeys and dhow captains is as energetic as it gets in this corner of Kenya, says Jack Barker**

I flattened against the stone wall to make space for a local girl, bundled in black, to pass. Suddenly there was the sound of clattering hooves and a panicked miaow of cats. Lumbering towards us at frightening speed was a donkey wearing baskets that brushed both sides of the narrow alley. The girl and I dived for a shallow, recessed doorway and squeezed in. The donkey raced by, scattering a cloud of plaster dust along the stone walls. We were safe. The girl smiled shyly, hitched her veil across her face and continued on her way. I set off in search of a wider alley.

Which was not easy. In Lamu, even the high street is too narrow to let two loaded donkeys pass. The island's atmosphere is a curious blend of Africa and the Middle East.

Women go about their chores dressed in black, and five times a day the air rings with the call to prayer, soulfully mellowed by the coastal heat. However, it is not the prayers that wake the town in the morning, but the dawn shouting contest between rival dhow owners trying to persuade locals to use their waterborne link to the mainland. After this frenzied burst of activity the dhow captains settle in to their day's pursuit coaxing tourists into taking sailing cruises. That is about as energetic as it gets in Lamu, but bandit activity nearby on the Malindi road means that even though Lamu is a natural backpacker destination, only the most intrepid reach the island overland and all other visitors come in by air.

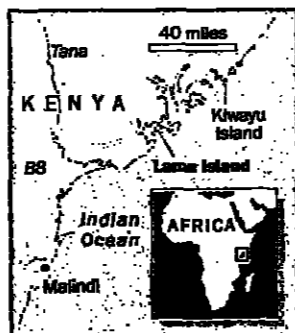
Hotels are practically empty most of the time — particularly



Lamu's dhows link the island to the mainland



A colourful, noisy gathering of traders and shoppers vying for service and attention greets visitors to the local market in Lamu, a typical Swahili coastal town in Kenya



since December's elections when a handful of politically motivated clashes contributed to a downturn in visitors. Palatial rooms in the town centre, furnished with four-poster beds, can sometimes be bargained down to just a few pounds for a night. And although the locals are too laid-back to show desperation, they are keen to please the few visitors who reach the island.

A waiter beckoned me into his empty restaurant. "Come in, come in. Have a drink. We have everything." Overcome by the excitement of my nearness with the donkey, I asked him to expand. "Coke. Fanta. Sprite..."

On an island where, even if you include the weekly disco at the police canteen, outlets serving beer can still be counted on the fingers of one hand, I had not expected alcohol. But Lamu offers less synthetic ways to quench your thirst than those he was offering, in the form of fresh fruit drinks too varied to list. I ducked into the low thatched shed and chose a crushed avocado concoction from the mouthwatering menu.

As soon as I sat down, the restaurant filled with young Lamu lads offering boat trips, but I settled for a game of bau, a challenging 64-pocket board game that can last more than an hour. As I counted beads for my next move, a statuesque Scandinavian beach goddess walked past. "I love you too," my opponent shouted after her hopefully. As the woman tracked across the waterfront, a few of his friends leapt up to follow her. "These beach boys

■ **People watching:** To watch island life, choose any of the bars that run along Lamu's harbour-front. Aladdin's Cave is my favourite, particularly the first floor where you can avoid being hassled by passing captains.

The upmarket Peponi Hotel is good if you do not feel like talking and is an excellent viewpoint for watching local families frolic in the shallows, the women and girls still modestly dressed but without their veils.

■ **Nightlife:** Peponi's again, for a casual beer. The rooftop bar at Petley's Inn is an island tradition but I am not sure why: plastic chairs, beachboy gigolos and a depressing atmosphere. Every Friday and many Saturdays at either the Police Club or the Civil Servants' Club is a disco that can be fun: a predominantly male clientele dances to slow reggae on cassette until the early hours, and warm beer is served by bar staff locked in a steel cage. For a quieter night, try looking at the stars and listening to the sea. At full moon there is a beach party on the neighbouring island of Manda.

The cinema shows mainly Indian films: the proprietor walks through the town during the day with a bicycle bell and a small poster listing what is showing. The Palace Hotel sometimes shows videos. Otherwise it is a case of playing bau, drinking fruit juice and chatting in seafood restaurants. Try La Baida restaurant or the Bush Gardens for seafood, and Rumours for espresso and pastries.

■ **Out and about:** There is plenty to

see. Lamu Museum, set in a traditional town house, is one of the best in Kenya. There is a busy and atmospheric city market and several small and graceful mosques. By the market is a large fort and on the waterfront a busy donkey sanctuary run by a Devon charity. A short dhow trip can take you to the ruins of Takwa on the next-door island of Manda, or to other islands further up the coast. But the best way of soaking up the charm of Lamu is by strolling around the narrow alleys of the ancient town centre or stretching out on Shela Beach. Diving is good from December to February, but there is no local dive centre at the moment so snorkelling is the limit.

■ **Do not disturb:** The depressed state of Kenya's tourist industry means that Lamu's hotels (with the possible exception of Petley's) fall over themselves to make visitors feel at home. Best place to stay is Shela village, where you will find the Peponi Hotel (closed May-June) as well as Shela House and Palm House (for private rental). In Lamu town there are bargains — and touts — galore. Good hotels include the Casuarina Rest House in the old police station, Pole Pole Guest House with the highest roof garden in town, and the Stone House Hotel built in traditional Lamu style.

■ **Getting there:** Buses and matatus (minibuses) ply the highway from Mombasa to Lamu, but north of Malindi they travel in convoy under

## OUT AND ABOUT ON LAMU ISLAND



Selling fruit in Lamu

armed guard. The Foreign Office recommends that you fly to Lamu from Nairobi, Zanzibar, Malindi or Mombasa.

■ **When to go:** Most people visit in the hot and dry months of January and February, but Lamu is also popular between July and September when it is still hot and

dry. There are two rainy periods: between March and May and October and December.

■ **Reading:** Kenya: *The Rough Guide* by Richard Trillo (*Rough Guides*, £11.99). Kenya: *Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £11.99). *The Cats of Lamu* by Jack Couffer (Aurum Press, £15.95).

■ **Red tape:** Kenya has introduced a £35 visa charge for British passport holders; details from the Kenyan High Commission (visa section) on 0891 633283 (premium rates).

■ **Health:** No vaccinations required but precautions against malaria are advised; consult your GP.

■ **Further information:** Call the Kenyan High Commission (tourism section) on 0171-355 3144 or, for information about safety, try the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0171-238 4503 or visit its website: <http://www.fco.gov.uk>

■ **Jack Barker travelled to Lamu with Abercrombie & Kent (0171-559 8663) which offers seven nights' B&B at the Peponi Hotel from £1,192. The price includes flights and transfers and is based on two people sharing. Rental for Shela House, which sleeps up to 12 people, costs from £2,251 for seven nights; seven nights at Palm House, which sleeps up to ten people, costs from £1,690. Rental prices are on a room-only basis but include flights and transfers. Full board costs an additional £39 per person per night. Prices valid until September 30.**

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مكتبات الأصل

# Witness this simple life while you can

Will the 17th-century ways of the Amish in Pennsylvania survive, asks Stephen McClarence



The Amish have a stock response to questions about their way of life. Ask them why they live in their time-warp — no cars, telephone, electricity, television or radio — and they often fall back on a three-sentence answer, intoned with biblical gravity: "That's the way we've always done it. That's the way it is. And that's the way it will always be."

Not any more. The wholesome simplicity of the Amish retro-life — celebrated in the 1985 Harrison Ford film *Witness* and the basis of a £250-million-a-year tourism industry — has been shaken to its foundations during the past week. The FBI has charged two members of the Amish community in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with receiving cocaine. During the past five years, Abner King Stoltzfus, 23, and Abner Stoltzfus, 24 (who are unrelated), have allegedly received "multiple kilograms" of the drug for distribution at the hoedowns that the Amish run every week for their youth groups. It seems a sudden awakening to contemporary culture for America's biggest Amish community. But the tensions have long been there, among the rolling Pennsylvania hills, the busy farms and the trim homesteads with their neat weatherboarded houses and immaculate gardens. Behind this serene, suburban, sampler-simple normality, the 20th century has been gradually infiltrating the Amish people's stubbornly 17th-century way of life, with its Anabaptist emphasis on God, the family and the farm. The basic problem for the "Plain People" is that their agricultural land is running out. Farming can no longer support their traditionally large families where eight children are common, 12 not unusual. Their population nationally has doubled to 130,000 over the past 20 years. Some Amish people have



Young Amish men might live a life that has changed little since the 17th century, but 20th-century canned drinks appeal nonetheless. Some Amish worry that their way of life is now under threat

gone into the construction industry. Others have turned to tourism, cashing in on public fascination with their sect and its severe shunning of the "evil" corruption-filled world outside. Ironically, some now invite the "evil" into their homes for hosted meals — which is how a dozen guests come to be sitting round a long table at Annie and Jonas King's ranch in the village of Intercourse, an important Amish centre. The guests — paying a £7.40 "donation" for a solid meal strong on sweetcorn and potatoes — are mostly American and European. But the Pradhan family have come from Bombay, on the strength of *Witness*. "It's the fascination of a totally different way of life," says Fitz Pradhan, a computer engineer, as he follows Annie into the sewing room, where merchandise is on display. "Did you hear me mention my recipe book?" Annie gently pressures a guest. "It's \$7. And that historical book is \$13." Many dutifully buy, but this is not a big bucks night for the

Kings. Sometimes they have 42 guests to cook for. Dinner-table conversation is generally about the trappings of lifestyle, not the tenets of faith. The coach parties love it. They swarm up and down the main street of Intercourse, with its 100 B&Bs. Here and in nearby villages they buy Amish-style quilts and rugs from smart gift shops called Kountry Kraits or the Pretty Face Doll Shop, selling glossy coffee-table books — Amish life in idyllic soft focus. A multi-media view of the sect is offered by the Amish Experience. There are Quilters' Heritage weekends, rharb festivals and Old-Fashioned Ice-Cream Festivals. And there is the Amish Country Craze Golf Course. It is a long way from the *Cold Comfort Farm*-like severity at the spiritual heart of the Amish. "This was a quiet little town until tourism discovered the Amish in the 1960s," says guide Henry Benner. "At one time people thought the tourism would destroy the culture,

but it's become an economic boom and the Amish have adapted." Those who leave the faith may be "shunned" for the rest of their lives, but some have allowed the 20th century to filter in — selectively, pragmatically. They use mobile phones and allow phone masts to be erected on their land. They drive — but do not own — cars. They use tractors for transporting machinery, but not in the fields, where mule-drawn ploughs are still used. Surely it would be much easier for farmers to use tractors, I say to Annie Fisher, a farmer's daughter. "Yes," she says simply, "but we don't." Like many of their neighbours, the Fishers grow tobacco but do not smoke it. Others sell elk's horn to the Chinese as an aphrodisiac. Children wear trainers and play Nintendo games. Here and there, though, is an undiluted dignity that resents all the commercialism and tries to rise above the cute, the kitsch and the quaint. Not everyone wants coach parties poking round their black horse-buggies or gaping through their front windows. "No tourists please," says a sign outside a school, still teaching a curriculum dating from the 1940s. Many want to guard their community's privacy, to maintain the homespun seclusion which the Amish newspaper, *Die Botschaft* (*The Mission*), so carefully fosters. Column after column is devoted to the sort of gossip people normally exchange by telephone. "Luke has been having trouble controlling his blood pressure," writes John Miller from Alpine County. "They ran tests and took X-rays and think an artery that goes to the kidneys is closed." Many Amish — especially the Old Order, descendants of a Swiss Anabaptist sect that emigrated to America in the 1600s — cherish their "apartness". "I have Amish friends,"

says a Lancaster County businesswoman. "But there's always a line you can't cross with them. There's a separateness, a formality. I wouldn't talk about my personal relationships with them." As a member of a long-established local family, Henry Benner, a retired teacher, gives outsiders an unusual access to this private world. "Some of the values that some feel have been lost in American society are kept alive in this rich, family culture," he says. He arranges an audience with Leroy and Ruth Esh, an Amish couple in their seventies. Their home is comfortable, if spartan, with a propane gas lamp, gas fridge and windowsills covered with plants. Leroy has a Rip Van Winkle look — long face, pudding-basin of grey hair and a wispy beard. He wears a waistcoat and wide-brimmed straw hat, the clothes of 17th-century German peasants. Ruth is more apple-pie wholesome than many Amish women, who scrape their hair back and wear white linen bonnets and plain frocks, pinafores and cardigans. Plainness is a virtue. An old Amish story tells of a man turning to his wife as they leave church. "I think you were the plainest woman in that church today," he tells her. She glows with pride. Leroy says he understands visitors' surprise at the Amish culture. "This is a way of life we've inherited," he says, "and we don't want to throw that inheritance away." He and Ruth talk about their three-hour church services, with hour-long sermons and 38-verse hymns. "Let's sing 414," he says suddenly. They sing by heart in German dialect, eyes closed, his voice thin and quavery, hers a full contralto hitting the notes exactly. The only other sounds are the trot of horses' hooves outside and the rumble of the

## SAMPLE THE AMISH WAY OF LIFE



The distinctive appearance of the Amish has changed little over the centuries

- Stephen McClarence travelled with US Airways and Pennsylvania Tourism. Intercourse, the major Pennsylvania centre for Amish tourism, is in Lancaster County, on Highway 340 between Lancaster City (10 miles away) and Philadelphia (50 miles).
- Getting there: US Airways (0800 783 5556) operates a daily service to Philadelphia from Gatwick; return flight is from £479.50 in July and £546.50 in August.
- Packages: Cosmos (0161-480 5799) has an eight-night coach trip starting in New York and stopping off in Niagara Falls, Amish country and Washington DC for £1,029 in August; flights and accommodation included. Or try American Connections (01494 473173), Kuoni (01306 742888), Travelpack (0161-707 4405) and Getaway Vacations (0181-313 0550).
- Getting to Intercourse: by Amtrak train from Philadelphia to Lancaster costs £14 plus £5 booking fee, bookable through Amtrak's UK Reservations Office (0171-253 9009). White Horse buses go from Lancaster to Intercourse every 90 minutes (£1.50 each way).
- Tours: Amish Experience (001 717 768 3600), based in Intercourse, organises two coach trips around Amish country daily (10.30am and 2pm - £11 adults, £6.70 children aged 4-11).
- Car rental: Hertz car rental (0990 996699) has a week's Group A all-inclusive car hire, with a free additional driver from £198.
- The Carriage Corner B&B, Intercourse (768 3059), £41.70 for a double room.
- Reading: *Pennsylvania* (£12.99, Moon Publications).
- Further information: Pennsylvania Tourism (0839 300701, premium rate).



Ancient and modern: an Amish buggy passes a Greyhound bus

### CRETE & SANTORINI

with a little plant spotting and archaeology, visiting Heraklion, Phaestos, Matala, Gournia, Lasithi Plateau & the island of Santorini

The island of Crete is an excellent hunting ground for those interested in archaeology and beautiful scenery. The weather in autumn and spring will be perfect for exploring the island; the sun will be pleasantly hot but its heat will be tempered by cool breezes from the sea.

We begin the exploration of Crete in the island's capital Heraklion, visiting the important Archaeological Museum and later the Palace of Minos at Knossos. Superb scenery lies along the route through the Amari Valley down to Ayia Galini, flanked by Mount Ida to the east and Mount Kedros to the west. The scenery round Ierapetra and the Lasithi Plain is unusual and dramatic and should tempt the photographer. Then there are the monuments at Kera and Arkadi with their magnificent icons and frescoes.

Santorini, set in the Aegean to the north of Crete, is a fascinating small island formed as result of volcanic action; the landscape is dramatic with towering cliffs dotted with white houses that gleam in the brilliant sun. The island was populated as early as 6 BC and was occupied at various times by Phoenicians, Romans, Dorians and Byzantines. In Santorini we shall visit the capital Fira, and the ancient sites at Thira and Akrotiri.

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

There will be dancing in the streets of Berlin next Saturday, says Bridget Harrison

# A frenzy of music, dance and love



Dancers join the festival in the centre of Berlin

Next Saturday Berlin will prove once again that it is a city that certainly knows how to throw a party. The city is staging the tenth Love Parade, an event which has become one of the largest festivals in Europe, and will see more than one million ravers from all over the world dancing in the streets and later, sweating in night clubs. The Parade was started in 1989 by a softly spoken, underground DJ called Dr Motte, who threw a party in Kurfürstendamm, one of Berlin's smartest shopping streets. His aim was to "deconstruct peace, love and friendship". The event was attended by 150 of the city's coolest, who danced to techno, blasted from the top of a single Volkswagen camper van. Year by year the event grew. In 1990, 2,000 people took

part; by 1995, the figure had increased to 300,000. Dr Motte is now an iconic figure, while the Love Parade has expanded into a vast extravaganza that runs through Berlin's Tiergarten Park to the Brandenburg Gate. The focus of the day is a procession of flamboyant floats which blast out dance music, smoke and water into the midst of a frenzied street party. Articulated lorries, each laden with a 25,000-watt sound system and crammed with costumed dancers, slowly make their way up the four-mile route, surrounded by an ocean of bobbing heads that stretches as far as the eye can see. Ravers climb on to the roofs of portable toilets set up along the route, honking horns, cheering to the music and squirting water pistols as the floats go by. Each year the Parade takes



Thousands of techno fans dance in front of the Brandenburg Gate during the Love Parade

on a different theme. Last year it was "Let the Sun Shine in Your Heart"; this time it will be "One World - One Future". Some complain that the event has already become too commercial and lost sight of its alternative, hippy roots. Perhaps the Love Parade is becoming a victim of its own success? Sponsors, organisers and even Dr Motte are unperturbed. They argue that the name of the day has always been tolerance, even if that means coping with a million

ravers descending on the city. This year, the procession will get under way at 2pm. Floats will start moving simultaneously from Ernst-Reuter-Platz and the Brandenburg Gate, that lie at either end of Strasse des 17 Juni. The plan is that the 25 lorries from each end will pass at Seigessäule, Berlin's victory column. Crowds will begin amassing along the route from early in the morning. The closing rally of the Parade will begin at around 7pm, at the central point of Strasse des 17

Juni, reaching a climax when Dr Motte will take to the stage and deliver a message of love to the crowds. Be there, or be square.   
 ● Bridget Harrison travelled with the German National Tourist Office (premium rate: 0891 600100). Operators featuring Berlin include Osprey Holidays (0990 605605), which has two-night breaks to Berlin for next weekend from £289 per person, staying at a two-star hotel and including breakfast and flights from Heathrow. Cystani (0181-241 5040)

has deals from £269 per person for two nights, staying at a three-star hotel, breakfast and flights from Heathrow included. Two nights' B&B at a five-star hotel is £339. All prices based on two sharing.   
 ● AD Airlines (0800-458 8111) has return flights to Berlin from Gatwick from £120, including departure tax, in July. Berlin has an efficient underground system, the U-Bahn, with trains running from 4am to 12.30am (an hour later on Friday and Saturday).   
 ● Love Parade Hotline: 00 49 30 30 660. Website: <http://www.loveparade.de>

# A lesson for London

HAVING recently returned from Sydney, where building for the 2000 Olympics proceeds at a frantic pace, it was interesting to spend four days in Barcelona over last weekend to see how its six-year-old Olympic village has become integral to the life of the city. By night, Port Olímpic is the most hopping part of Barcelona. We dined in one of the many excellent seafood restaurants — packed with locals, always a good sign — where huge portions of freshly-cooked fish arrived almost before we had handed back the menus. Then we moved on to the parade of bars whose sound systems compete for the throng of clubbers swarming past all night. It was everything you wanted in a good night out — there was no admission charge for most of the clubs; you simply moved from one to another as the music changed. Bar prices were reasonable, thanks to the strong pound which now buys 250 pesetas, a big improvement on the 180 we got a couple of years back.

centre, rather than a ten-minute cab drive as in Barcelona. But at least these cities are keen to embrace new opportunities, unlike London. I returned home to the news that Westminster City Council has rejected plans to pedestrianise parts of the centre of the capital, which might have given us the chance to create a true heart to the city where we could sit at pavement cafes without being choked by diesel fumes, or admire Trafalgar and Parliament Squares without a death-defying lunge through the traffic. In London improvements are made piecemeal — a Jubilee Line Extension that is hopelessly late; a fast connection to Heathrow from less-than-convenient Paddington; the stunning Canary Wharf that is deserted at night. Will a mayor help? Perhaps, if he or she can inject some of Barcelona's vision and Sydney's energy into London's development.

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart TRAVEL EDITOR

When we called it a night at 5am — unfashionably early by Barcelona standards — we found a cab with none of the argy-bargy necessary in London at that time of night (fighting off competing customers, throwing self under cab, lying to driver about ultimate unfashionable destination, etc). And once back at the hotel our concierge seemed delighted to be awoken to let us in. Whether Sydney's Olympic Village will prove so popular with locals after the games is not clear, for the area is a half-hour ferry trip from the city

I FLEW to Barcelona on EasyJet, the Luton-based low-cost airline that on Friday will start a service to Athens. EasyJet does not serve food on its planes — you can buy a packet of peanuts but that's about it — fine on a two-hour hop to Barcelona but a different prospect on a four-hour haul to Athens. So I was pleased to hear that EasyJet is planning to sell Pret a Manger sandwiches on its Athens flights. Anyone who has eaten this chain's sandwiches knows they are a much tastier option than in-flight meals — and I'm not just saying that because I want it to open a branch near the offices of *The Times*...

NO FRILLS VIRTUALLY

"NO-FRILLS" airline Debonair has broken ranks with its low-cost competitors by adding a frill — free food, writes Jeanette Hyde. Complimentary sandwiches, chocolates, Panetone cake and coffee are being served as the Luton-based airline competes with its new rival, British Airways-owned Go, which charges for snacks. Debonair chairman and chief executive Franco Mancassola denies the enhancements will be followed by price rises. "Adding snacks is a good investment to ensure customers come back. It does not cost us much." The majority of "no-frills" airlines — such as easyJet, Ryanair and Virgin Express — either do not serve snacks or charge for them to keep prices down (see Trip Wires, above). Spokesmen for Go and easyJet denied that their airlines would now match Debonair. But aviation experts believe the move could signal the end of the no-frills concept. They point out that in the early 1980s, British Airways launched a cheap ticket, no-meals, walk-on shuttle service from London to Scotland. To compete, British Midland added hot meals. BA responded by doing the same and both eventually put up prices.

## Sound advice on avoiding ear pops

HOLIDAYMAKERS are being warned to take preventative measures when flying this summer to avoid the discomfort of popping ears — or "barotrauma" as it is medically known — on landing, writes Jeanette Hyde. Cold sufferers and people with sinus or nasal infections are the most likely to have pressure building up in the ears, an unpleasant popping sensation that can result in temporary hearing impairment. Sufferers are advised to use a decongestant spray or take a decongestant tablet, suck a menthol sweet, or plug their ears with silicone ear plane plugs — all of which are available at most UK high street chemists, said Mr Garfield Davies, ear, nose and throat consultant surgeon at The London Clinic and the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital.

"About 5 per cent of adults and 25 per cent of children suffer from barotrauma," he said. The condition can worsen so that a watery clear liquid runs from the ear and, in severe cases, an ear drum may burst the day after flying. This is a rare occurrence, but is more likely among people who suffered severe ear problems during childhood. Mr Davies recommends, if possible, postponing travel if you have a cold or sinus infection. If you do have to fly, ear plane plugs can be fitted during take-off and landing to relieve symptoms. A cheap but effective option is to pinch your nose and blow, to unpop ears. He advises using the decongestant spray or tablet up to two hours before landing, or sucking sweets during the last half-hour of the flight.

## We think it's all over — it is now



Oh no! First England lose, now we've got to book a holiday

With England out of the World Cup, let's book a holiday, says Steve Keenan

ENGLAND'S early exit from the World Cup brought cheers from tour operators who hope fans will now turn their thoughts to booking holidays. Since the tournament kicked off on June 10, bookings had slumped by up to one-third compared with the same period last year. But travel agents expect a flood of business this weekend. The travel agencies Going Places and Thomas Cook reported increased business on Wednesday, the morning after the night before. The rush to get away replicated demand in Scotland following its defeat by Morocco a week ago. John Bennett, managing director of citybreak specialist Osprey Holidays, said: "We were 30 per cent down during the World Cup — but the day after Scotland was knocked out, we went back to pre-Cup levels." Going Places reported sales down by 10 per cent, while England and Scotland were still involved in the Cup, despite prices being "incredibly cheap", said managing director Peter Shanks. "People have been sitting at home and delaying their holiday decisions, but we are now expecting a significant increase in demand this weekend." While school holiday breaks are largely sold, Thomas Cook has one week in Turkey for £159, departing Monday, and at Fuerteventura for £179, leaving on Friday.

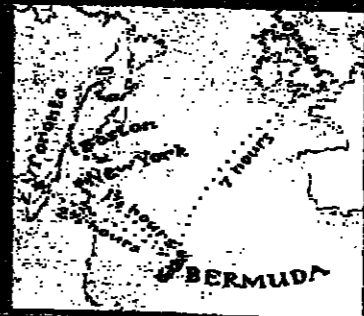
● p64, Weekend Money: travel insurance for backpackers

## Where sex doesn't sell

TOUR operators have described a move by Caribbean tourist officials to highlight its racy, sexy side in advertising campaigns as "crude", writes Tom Chesshyre. Speaking at a conference in the Caribbean last week, Carla Noel, tourism director for Trinidad and Tobago, said sex appeal should be used as one of the Caribbean's selling points. "We have an opportunity to take advantage of a natural asset," she said. But a spokeswoman for Caribbean Connection said: "Sexy resorts like Hedonism II in Jamaica are all very well for the younger market, but the Caribbean has a lot more to offer." A spokeswoman for SuperClubs said: "Resorts like Hedonism II have a sex appeal that the hotel owners should be allowed to capitalise on."

## Take a quiet stroll around Warwick

Warwick, Bermuda, that is. In this exclusive island resort you will find miles of unspoilt, gorgeous pink beaches lapped by the beautiful clear blue sea. Bermuda is only 7 hours from London by non-stop British Airways flights. With four flights a week leaving Gatwick at lunchtime and arriving in time for dinner in Bermuda, it's an ideal way to start a short break or holiday on this wonderful island. You can take a break in Bermuda from around £700\*. Simply call Bermuda Tourism and we will send you all the information you need to take that first quiet stroll in Warwick.



For more information call 0990 779955

find yourself in **Bermuda**

\*Includes BA flight transfers, 3 nights' bed and breakfast, all airport taxes.

مكتبة الأصيل



TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



Find your way through Rome's traffic with a new guide

Ways of the road abroad

BEFORE you set out for Europe with your car or bicycle, make sure you know the road rules. Car-mad Italy, for example, has adopted stringent parking regulations in its main three tourist cities, Rome, Florence and Venice.

Regulations that can cause trouble for unwary motorists are highlighted in a guide, Motoring in Europe (£4.99, RAC Publications, 0800 550055).

There are some curious rules: if you don't carry your passport while driving in Portugal you can be fined; drivers who wear glasses must carry a spare pair while driving in Spain; and in Sweden the legal blood alcohol limit is 20mg (it is 80mg in the UK).

Garden surprise

MONET's famous gardens at Giverny are heaving with visitors from now until the end of August. So instead, why not visit some of Normandy's 31 other parks and gardens listed in the free leaflet Parks et Jardins from the Normandy Tourist Board (0177 986 0386)?

The region's mild climate and fertile soil offer near perfect conditions for a diverse range of plants and garden styles - many of them English-inspired. The finest example is at Sir Edwin Lutyens' Bois des Moutiers at Varen-

geville-sur-Mer. Gertrude Jekyll designed the gardens. The more formal French style, with fountains, ornamental lakes and box-tree maze, is represented by the Parc du Château de Beaumesnil stretching over 80 hectares, and designed by La Quintinie. If you prefer less-folie de grandeur, the more intimate Clos du Coudray has a wonderful variety of stream-side foliage.

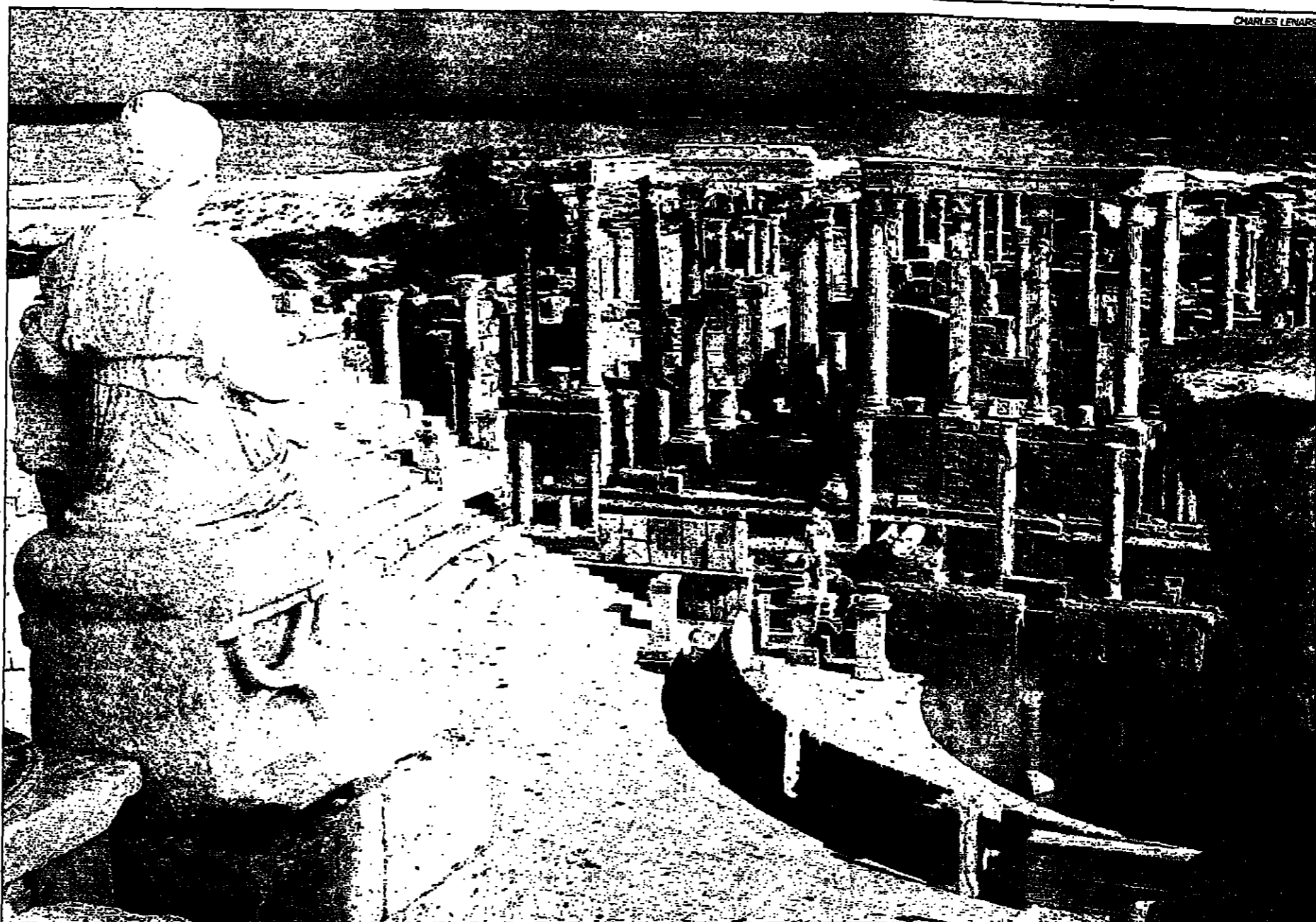
Chile wines

IF YOU think Chilean wines fall into the cheap plonk camp, you could spend £2,699 on a tour to be re-educated.

"Chilean and Argentine wine production has progressed rapidly from a headache in a bottle to the very fine wines offered by contemporary producers," says Tim Clarke, founder of Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours (01730 893344). It is offering 12-day tours to South America early next year when the grape harvest will have just begun.

The £2,699 price includes flights, four-star accommodation, meals (with wines), tastings, city tours and expert wine guides.

BRITANNY Ferries Holidays (0990 360360) has a voucher offer for accommodation in 100 "Character Inns" dotted around the Picos de Europa mountains and the fishing



The magnificent Roman remains of Leptis Magna at Al-Khum are among the highlights of Dragoman's adventure expedition to Libya, which takes in Sicily and Tunisia en route

Libyan trek

ADVENTURE specialist Dragoman (01728 861133), which has had to keep a careful eye on Eritrea because of recent troubles with Ethiopia, reports a flurry of interest in Libya. Its five-and-a-half week expedition leaves on November 13 and travels overland to North Africa via Sicily. It visits Tunisia's Carthage and Kairouan, with an overnight stay in Matzra before crossing the Libyan border. The magnificent site of Leptis Magna is a highlight here. The tour finishes in Cairo and costs £795, which includes overland truck travel from the UK to Cairo, accommodation and most entrance fees. Holidaymakers are expected to pay about £350 towards a kitty for food and extras. Onward travel or flights back to the UK can be arranged.

Wild snappers

IF YOU'RE an aspiring snapper, you will be able to judge your technique on Wildlife World wide's (0181-667 9158) new photographic workshop holiday in Namibia. Your film will be processed in situ - perhaps under camel-thorn acacias in the desert, on top of your own dune in Sossusvlei or sheltered by

Ski the world

BRITISH Airways Holidays has launched its first ski programme, "Ski the World" (0870 242449), featuring 17

Mucking out

IF YOU fancy mucking out on an organic farm, Willing Workers on Organic Farms (WWOOF) will help you find a farm which doesn't rely on artificial fertilisers or poisons for pest control. The organisation has about 200 farms listed in the UK and abroad. Volunteers receive board and lodging with the farmer and his family. It costs £10 annually for six newsletters detailing projects, but you can try a couple of scheduled visits first to test your suitability. WWOOF is on 01273 476286.

Wildlife

Award-winning wildlife photographer Dave Back leads the 14-day tour next spring. It is aimed at amateur photographers and costs £3,795 for flights, accommodation, film developing, tuition, meals and wildlife activities.

Ski the world

BRITISH Airways Holidays has launched its first ski programme, "Ski the World" (0870 242449), featuring 17

TIME to strap on your go-faster stripes: Page & Moy (0116-250 7007) is offering a day trip to the practice day of the British Grand Prix on July 11. For £159 per person, spectators can enjoy a seat at the Woodhouse Grandstand, and all-day hospitality at the trackside - including a four-course lunch and afternoon tea. There will also be a complimentary bar. Page & Moy has a few tickets remaining for the Grand Prix day itself for £549 per person.

IF YOU always thought messing about on the river

PACK YOUR BAGS logo with a person carrying a bag

was a spectator sport, contact Norfolk Broads Direct (01603 782207). Self-catering riverside apartments in Wroxham, the "capital" of the Broadlands, start at £412 per person based on four people sharing.

CHILDREN under 12 accompanied by two adults

travel to Bulgaria from £49 each with Balkan Holidays (0171 7443 5555). Fourteen nights' B&B at the Sunny Beach resort starts at £219 per adult, and at the Albena and Golden Sands prices start at £239. Departures on July 11, 12 and 13 from Gatwick, Manchester, Cardiff or Glasgow depending on date.

UNION-CASTLE Travel (0171-229 1411) is offering an eight-night "whales and wildflowers" itinerary in South Africa, including two nights in Hermanus, two nights at the Cape Grace Hotel, Cape Town, and four nights in Namaqualand with a guided tour through the floral plains. Eight nights' B&B, return flights from Heathrow, including tax and car hire start at £1,610 per person. Safaris can also be arranged on request. Departs daily.

BRITISH Airways Holidays (0870-241 2412) has reduced its fly-drive package to Seattle by £116. The seven-night trip now starts at £619 per person including return flights from Heathrow, UK transfers and car hire.

EXAM time is over and students looking for a fortnight of fun in the sun should contact Campus Travel (0171-730 3402). The following offers are for two-week breaks, flying from Gatwick, and include tax: return flights to Malaga start at £114, departing on July 13; return flights to Corfu, also departing on July 13, start at £139; return flights to Ibiza, departing on July 15, cost from £119; and return flights to Dalaman, Turkey, start at £202, valid throughout July.

MAGIC of Italy (0181-748 7575) is offering apartments in Umbria, departing on July 18. Seven nights' self-catering in farmhouse apartments, which sleep up to four, costs £499 per person including car hire and return flights from Gatwick.

JOANNA HUNTER

Table with columns: Route, Promotional Fare, Standard Fare. Includes destinations like Birmingham, London, Manchester, Glasgow, Lisbon, Malaga, Milan, Paris.

TRAVELLERS' TIP logo with text: WORRIED ABOUT lost luggage? If you are travelling with somebody else it is always a good idea to spread your clothes between both sets of cases or bags...

Below 60 degrees latitude lies the immense white continent of Antarctica, a land like no other in the geography and history of the world. Regarded by scientists and seasoned travellers as one of the last truly pristine regions on earth, it is a place of ethereal ice-scapes and abundant wildlife.

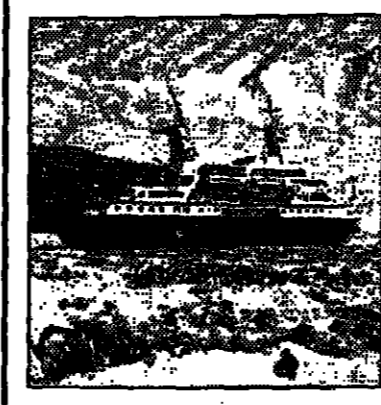
Far from being a harsh, inhospitable wasteland of snow and ice, this awesome continent and its satellite islands abound with life. Beaches resound with the bellows of unruly seals and a chorus of seabird calls echo from the rocks and cliffs. Penguins skate, waddle and belyre the slopes in dizzying thousands.

During the course of the Antarctic Summer season, from November to early March the World Discoverer offers a choice of visits to the Antarctic Peninsula. You can combine the Peninsula with visits to the Falklands and South Georgia. Alternatively, visit the Peninsula with the glorious Fjord region of Southern Chile.

YOUR CHOICE OF SHIP IS CRUCIAL The World Discoverer is among the very few vessels in the world specially constructed for expedition voyages to the far reaches of the Arctic and Antarctic. Her ice-hardened, double-bottomed hull permits safe exploration in pack-ice and ice clad waters that are not accessible to conventional cruise vessels. She has sailed farther into the Arctic and Antarctic regions than any other cruise ship.

SMALL IS IDEAL The small size of the World Discoverer and its shallow draft provides great flexibility, allowing her to manoeuvre with ease in narrow channels and to closely approach shorelines. This permits more frequent daily landings.

GO ASHORE BY ZODIAC These easily launched zodiac craft allow us to land on deserted beaches.



ANTARCTICA THE LAST FRONTIER

VOYAGES TO THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE CHILEAN FJORDS ABOARD THE WORLD DISCOVERER



explore narrow, iceberg-lad waterways and step ashore on peatbog tundra islets. Zodiacs offer wonderful flexibility, speed and convenience in this remote wilderness environment where shore-side facilities simply do not exist. Our Zodiac drivers have years of experience in polar waters and the vessel has sufficient Zodiacs so that all passengers can participate in excursions at the same time.

WELCOME TO THE BRIDGE The Captain's bridge is open at all times to passengers who seek to learn about navigation, follow the ship's progress on the nautical chart, or just satisfy any curiosity they may have regarding the operation of the ship.

TRAVEL WITH SCIENTISTS AND NATURALISTS Our on board team will include world-renowned lecturers, including naturalists, wildlife biologists, ornithologists, geologists and historians. A series of on board lectures is complemented by the presence of our experts at your side during excursions in the field.

EVERY CRUISE IS UNIQUE Our captains' and expedition leaders' many years of experience, expertise and knowledge encourage

exploration of the more remote places in Antarctica. Our itineraries are carefully planned, yet remain flexible. No two expedition cruises are ever alike.

THE WORLD DISCOVERER

Built in Europe in 1974 the World Discoverer measures 285 feet in length, 50 feet in the beam and has a draft of 15 feet. Designed as an ocean going vessel she has a cruising range of 8,000 nautical miles and has been specifically designed for expedition cruising. She is classified as AE + AMS ICGE for un-licensed passenger service by the American Bureau of Shipping and is commanded by European officers.

There is accommodation on board for just over 130 passengers and all cabins and suites have outside views, private shower and toilet. Furnished to first class standards there are spacious public areas, including two lounges, library, and a single sitting dining room. Spacious decks offer excellent observation areas.

ITINERARY OUTLINES

ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA & THE FALKLANDS 30 November - 17 December 1998 From £4395

FALKLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA & ANTARCTICA 17 December 1998 - 3 January 1999 From £4395

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA 3-14 January 1999 From £3295

ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA & THE FALKLANDS 14-31 January 1999 From £4995

FALKLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA & ANTARCTICA 31 January - 16 February 1999 From £4585

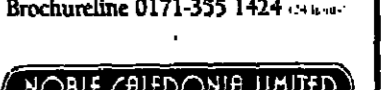
FALKLANDS, ANTARCTICA & THE CHILEAN FJORDS 16 February - 6 March 1999 From £4635

Price Includes: Full board aboard the World Discoverer, shore excursions, landing taxes, expedition staff, guest speakers. Not Included: Air travel (special rates available on request), travel insurance, airport taxes, gratuities.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Telephone 0171-409 0376

Brochureline 0171-355 1424



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# Why we should cosy up to the Danes

From windswept beaches to trendy bars, from Schnapps to caviare, **Stephanie Debere** finds plenty of reasons to like northern Denmark



A painting by local artist Krøyer in Skagen Museum

**N**orthernmost Denmark tapers to a thin spit, where the Baltic and the North Seas flow into one another and overlap in a cross-hatch of foam, or smash together in the air, depending on the weather.

Light bounces off both seas in opposite directions and meets over the town of Skagen with dazzling quality, even when it is cloudy.

More than 37 miles of beach stretch away from the spit, so even in summer when tourists swell Skagen's population from 12,000 to more than 50,000 and people queue up to have their photographs taken with one foot in each sea, you can still find a quiet spot.

In springtime, the beach is empty and standing on the spit feels eerily like being on a sandbar out at sea, with surrounding water closing in.

I watched the waves with Anette, a stylish former banker brimming with *joie de vivre*, now warden of the youth hostel where I was staying. Wind whipped hair around faces and slipped up cuffs and down collars.

Danes share the British sense of humour, appreciating sarcasm and friendly mockery, and we were joking around, when Anette suddenly said, with great relish, "Isn't this cosy?" Pardon? No way was this cosy. Wonderful, exhilarating, yes, but not, by any definition, of the word, cosy.

I was puzzled: this was not the first time during a week-long stay in Jutland that the Danes had asked whether I was cosy. Denmark is not renowned for its benevolent climate, but their concern seemed odd, as spring was well established.

The woods looked snowy, but were just carpeted with bright white anemones. Fields were the rich green of new wheat, or moleskin brown, awaiting planting. Daylight lingered until nine at night. So why this universal obsession with coziness?

The issue first arose in Jutland's capital, Århus. I stayed almost two miles' walk from the city centre, along a cycle

path between tall woods and the shimmering Baltic, in one of Denmark's 101 youth and family hostels. They offer uniformly high standards of hygiene and value (around £9 buys hostel cardholders a night in a pine bunk in private or shared rooms, often with en-suite showers), but they derive individual atmospheres from the wardens' personalities and buildings' origins.

Århus Hostel began as a high-windowed, octagonal dance hall in 1838. My room was in a modern extension, overlooking some woods and seemingly miles from anything urban. Founded by the Vikings, Århus is a compact port with a passion for pickling the past. At Den Gamle By (The Old Town), traditional buildings from all over Denmark have been reconstructed, including a 16th-century chemist's shop, a milliner's, a weigh-house, a ropemaker's and a bookbinder's.

Incongruously, the Viking Museum is located beneath a bank and you can see the original excavation site — but only during banking hours. More accessible is the Women's Museum, where exhibitions examine women's evolving roles. One display was called "The Bastards": Did Nordic women hate their men that much, I wondered? It turned out to be a study of illegitimate children and their mothers since 1800.

In the angular maze of narrow lanes around Århus Cathedral, a 13th-century behemoth of red brick and green copper roofs, rickety timbered houses painted traditional smoky blues and yellow ochres play new roles as antique shops, boutiques, bars and cafés, populated by a crowd of stylish students sporting leather pea coats and wedge-soled trainers.

On Saturday night, the lanes pulsed with babbled conversation and riffs of live music, as if the locals are permanently practising for the celebrated Århus Festival that takes place in August.

Over a plentiful breakfast of cereals, breads, cheeses and cold meats (or



The old town of Århus is a maze of narrow lanes, full of rickety-timbered houses painted traditional smoky blues and yellow ochres

around £4), the warden, Ole, asked: "Was it cosy in town last night?"

I do not normally describe urban bar-crawling as a cosy pursuit, but he seemed adamant that achieving coziness was the apogee of having fun, so I politely assured him I had been very cosy, before heading north to Denmark's only national park, the Forest of Rold.

The nearest hostel, in Rebild, centres on a thatched house and boasts four stars. Danish hostels are graded by stars, based around practical considerations, such as the number of rooms with showers or the reception opening hours. The stars do not account for ambience or beauty.

**W**ith inexhaustible enthusiasm, the warden, Joan, showered me with information about the mystical forest area. Danes who emigrated to America last century to escape poverty bought the land so they could always return home, and donated it to the state on condition that the forest be preserved and they would always be allowed to celebrate the Fourth of July there.

That is why this tiny hamlet hosts up to 25,000 people each year for the largest Fourth of July celebrations outside America. On that day, royalty, bands and eminent speakers cram into a natural amphitheatre in the forest, but it is more magical when deserted: a silent bowl of gorse and heather surrounded by beech and pine forests, green fields where natural springs bubble up and wide, swimmable lakes. This is great cycling country, a land of legends and folklore, trappers, poachers and baroque stately homes.

We lunched with an artist called Arne, who sculpts wildlife from local stone, in a former cow-shed. A big, old



The Rebild hills are home to the biggest Fourth of July celebrations outside America

man, Arne insisted I join him whenever he downed a schnapps. "This is so cosy," Joan enthused.

Well, yes, I could not argue that sitting round a kitchen table groaning with breads, cheeses, beers, herring and saucy was not cosy. But, strangely, coziness seemed to be the measure of success for the lunch.

Further north, the smooth farmland gave way to coarser moorland. Suddenly, I was

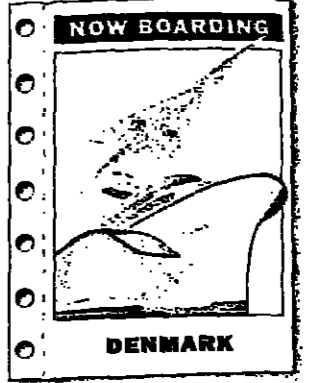
confronted with a mighty mountain of sand as white and featureless as the Sahara. The Råbjerg Mile is a mile-long dune that travels inexorably north for several metres every year.

Standing in the middle resembles being in a cold desert. The Danes are figuring out what to do when it reaches civilisation in a few decades' time. Nearby, a white spire protruding from the dunes is all that remains of a 15th-century church.

Skagen's hostel is purpose-built, but derives great character from the dedication and humour of Anette and her partner Rolf. I found Rolf waiting for a party of Norwegian footballers at the hostel, bent over computer and photocopier, doctoring an old newspaper headline reporting Denmark's recent defeat by Norway's soccer team. "I'm making it say the Norwegians failed a drugs test," he said, with a wink.

The hostel's exterior is painted buttermilk; in town, you see that almost every building has similar walls, varying shades of ochre or creamy mustard, complying with strict regulations. It is captivating and certainly seems eccentric, but its origins, it cannot be disputed, are practical. "The yellow walls originated because light from the two seas is blinding if reflected off white walls," explained Anette.

"And the red roof tiles have white edging so that the fishermen could spot them easily when returning from sea." Danish artists discovered



**Who Goes There?** Anyone seeking Scandinavian efficiency without Scandinavian prices and drinking laws. Fans of the outdoors who want easy travel but like the wacky behind the ordinary: trendy weekenders for Copenhagen.

**Getting The Ball Rolling:** The Danish Tourist Board, 55 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-259 5959 open 11am-4pm weekdays) or <http://www.dt.dk> for regional brochures and help planning your trip.

**Perfect Timing:** Denmark bulges with holidaying Danes and Germans during summer. Spring and autumn are preferable. Winter inhibits outdoor pursuits, but you can enjoy Copenhagen all year.

**Suitcase Strategy:** Take as little as possible — everything is available. Bring back: Schnapps, cheeses, modern art, anything with futuristic Danish design.

**The Pound in your pocket:** There are around 11 Danish Kroner to the pound. Banks change travellers cheques for a commission of 20Kr per transaction. Use Visa and Eurocheque cards at cashpoints. Major credit cards accepted universally. Prices: similar to Britain's, with a 15 per cent service charge at restaurants.

**Turn of Phrase:** Fluent English is mercifully widely spoken. Danish isn't easy. "Skol!" — "Cheers!"

**Big No-nos:** Intolerance in the land of the liberal.

**Nasty Surprises:** Yet another eye-watering lunchtime Schnapps.

**Not to be Missed:** Long lunches of meats and fish on rye; Old Copenhagen; Jutland's 60-mile beaches; Danish Impressionism; authentic Danish Pastries.

**Ways to Go:** By air: Scandinavian Airlines (0845 6072 727) Heathrow to Copenhagen. E104 return: to Århus, E147 return: British Airways (0345 222 111) Heathrow to



Copenhagen tourists can "rent" free bikes for a day

Copenhagen, E129 return. By ferry: Scandinavian Seaways (01255 241234) Harwich to Esbjerg from £580 (four people with car).

**Packages:** Scantours, 21-24 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y (0171-839 2927) offers weekend breaks to Copenhagen from £280 per person. The "introducing Denmark" tour covers Århus, Odense and Copenhagen, with two nights in each for £470 per person.

**Dull But Essential:** EU citizens with a valid passport can enter Denmark for up to three months; health care is free with an E111 form, available from post offices.

Low cost fares also available from Aberdeen, Dublin and Manchester. Book now through your travel agent or call SAS direct on 0845 60 727 727.

Or take off from Heathrow to:

**Oslo** £109 rtm. including tax £27

**Gothenburg** £116 rtm. including tax £17

**Stockholm\*** £116 rtm. including tax £27

\*Fly from Heathrow or Stansted. Prices shown are for midweek travel and your stay must include a Saturday night. Weekend fares are also available. Flights are subject to availability and fares to qualifying conditions.

Tear off to Copenhagen from Heathrow from **£100** rtm. including tax £23

For reservations call SAS on **0845 60 727 727** or call your local travel agent.

**SAS PLEASURE** It's pure Scandinavian

**Scandinaviana**

**JUTLAND FACT FILE**

**Getting there:** Stephanie Debere travelled with Scandinavian Airlines (0845 6072 727) from Heathrow to Århus. Flights available from £160 return during July from Travelers (0177-958 3232). Scandinavian Seaways (0171-616 1414) runs ferries between Harwich and Esbjerg, from £580 return for four people with a car and sharing an inside cabin. Hostels have parking facilities — or use Denmark's comprehensive and reliable rail and bus network.

**Accommodation:** DanHostel catalogue and general information: Danish Tourist Board (0171-259 5959). DanHostel website at <http://www.danhostel.dk> Youth Hostel Association (01727 853215). Annual membership £10.

**When to go:** Hostels are open year-round, except for January, when many close. Off-season (Sept 1-hday 15), you must book three days in advance. Usually quiet, they are busiest in July.

**What's on:** The Århus Festival (00 45 89 31 82 70), August 28 to September 6 — live music (rock, jazz and classical), performance arts, children's shows, opera, dancing and films. Website: <http://www.aarhusfestuge.dk>

**Reading:** Scandinavia (E12.99, Rough Guide), Denmark (E13.99, Blue Guide).

**Further information:** Danish Tourist Board (0171-259 5959).

**A GREAT BEACH.**

Oh...and a wealth of museums and art galleries.

Not to mention plenty of bars, cafes and nightclubs. Prices from £309 per person for 7 nights B&B.

**TEL AVIV-JAFFA**

CALL ALL ABROAD HOLIDAYS ON

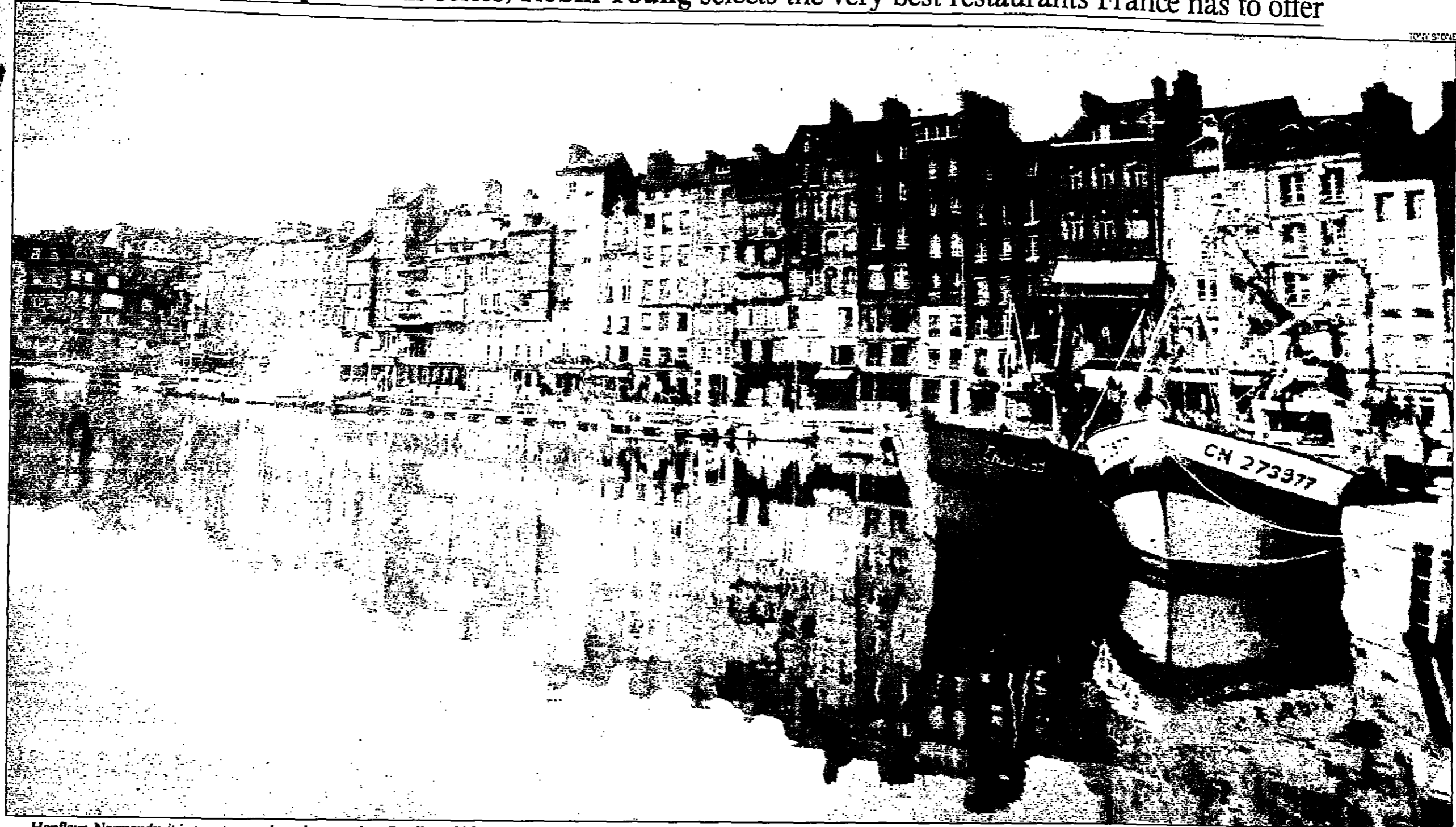
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### In the final part of his series, Robin Young selects the very best restaurants France has to offer



Honfleur, Normandy: it is easy to see why painters such as Boudin and Monet were so fond of this beautiful fishing port. They ate well here, too. Fortunately, Honfleur is still home to some exceptional cooking at very reasonable prices

# The gastronome's grand tour

Much of the pleasure of touring in France is the joy of discovering a delightful auberge, inn or welcoming restaurant that sets the seal on a perfect day. In this series of articles I have emphasised the value of using guidebooks to research the best places. Beside Michelin and Gault Millau, I regularly consult Champerand and Botin-Gourmand for restaurants, Pudowski and Lebey for Paris, Guide Hubert for the north, Ganté for the south, and the Guide Routard series for economical places to eat and stay nationwide. I also read the restaurant reviews in various French newspapers and magazines.

My wife and I have been regular visitors to France for four decades, and have sometimes been resident there for months at a time. We have many favourite places and the following selection has been chosen to cover popular tourist areas. The restaurant we dine at most frequently in France is Les Galets in the Normandy seaside village of Veules-les-Roses. Gilbert Plaisance lost his Michelin star some years ago, but our recent meals have been up to his usual high standards and it is the best restaurant for visitors to the area around Dieppe, the most beautiful of the Channel ports.

There are two local competitors we revisit as often as possible. The first is Les Hérites at Ingouville, near St Valéry-en-Caux. The cooking is still exquisite, though here too, the Michelin star is a thing of the past. It has four bedrooms (from £49 to £63 a night). The proprietor, M Warren, still gets a red rocking chair from Michelin ("quiet and secluded situation"). Closer to Dieppe, at Bourg-Dun, Pierre Chréten of the Auberge du Dun still holds a relatively new Michelin star, though he has dropped to being a *petit table* in Gault Millau. Again, my advice after a recent visit is not to be discouraged: our latest meal there was the best to date.

At the southern edge of Normandy, for those visiting Claude Monet's gardens at Giverny, the best restaurant is the elegant Les Jardins de

Giverny, which offers a commendable £13 lunch menu. Book well ahead. Beat the crowds for the gardens by staying at the nearby Evreux in Vernon: its dining room, the Relais Normand, will furnish a decent dinner. In Honfleur, one of the most beautiful French fishing ports, Boudin, Monet and other artists used to lunch at La Ferme St-Siméon. Nowadays they would probably prefer Gérard Bonnetoy's L'Assiette Gourmande because it is about half the price, but M Bonnetoy has also set up his deputy, Benoît Dang, in La Terrasse de l'Assiette, a more modestly priced bistro opening onto the Place Sainte-Catherine. There, the menu is a mere £13. Even a struggling painter could afford that once in a while.

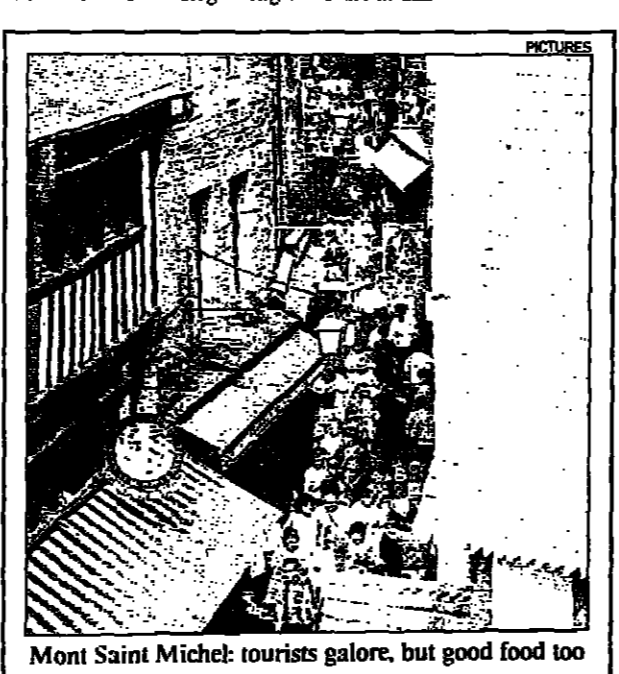
Near Bayeux we have a particular affection for the genteel Château d'Audrieu, set in parkland and surrounded by gardens. It is one of very few French hotels where guests staying at pension rates are afforded a full run of the *d la carte* menu and Alain Cornet's delicious cooking. On the Cotentin peninsula we have poignant memories of the France et Fuchsius close to the oyster parks at St Vaast-la-Hougue. The dining room drips with flowers and the food has newly qualified for a Bib Gourmand ("good meals at moderate prices") in Michelin. At the bottom of the west-facing Côte Sauvage, in Burneville-Carteret, La Marine is an ideal seaside hotel, lapped by the waves at high tide, and kept in the same family for five generations.

Even a teeming tourist trap like Mont Saint Michel has a good choice of hostilities. The best news is that La Mère Poulard, home of the 40-egg omelette (once sampled by Margaret Thatcher), has formed an alliance with Michel Bruneau of La Bourride in Caen to elevate the standard of the rest of its cooking, with the result that the £18 lunch menu is now a cracking buy.

The mecca for gastronomes in Brittany is Cancale, only nine miles from the St Malo ferry terminal. At the 18th-century Maison de Briouart, Olivier Roellinger runs one of the most affordable three-star Michelin restaurants in France. The lunch menus are between £26 and £43, and will come as a revelation to those who have not experienced cooking at this level of excellence before. For those who want to stay over, there are six rooms in the adjacent villa, Les Rimains. Roellinger's nearest rival in Brittany is Jean-Marie Guilbault at an old stone farmhouse, the Ferme du Lety at



Bénodet, south of Quimper. Incredibly, the entry price for the cheapest menu here is still a mere £10, despite the Michelin star and three toques and an enthusiastic 17 out of 20 rating in Gault Millau. On the Atlantic coast, La Rochelle is the strategic high



Mont Saint Michel: tourists galore, but good food too

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La Rochelle: Richard Couteau 5 46 41 48 19  
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A stroll through Monet's stunning garden at Giverny is the perfect precursor to a meal at Les Jardins de Giverny

point, and the gastronomic flag bearer is Richard Couteau's restaurant overlooking the entry to the port at the Plage de la Concurrence. This also gets 17 marks from Gault Millau, but this time two stars from Michelin. The menus start at £22.

Inland, Chartres is a place of pilgrimage made yet more attractive by an astonishing modern restaurant concealed within the beams and corbels of one of the city's oldest (15th century) facades. La Truie qui File in the Place de la Poissonnerie is run by Gilles and Geneviève Choukroun with zest, invention and enthusiasm. As well as a good-value menu at £18.50, they do bistro meals in Les Caves de la Maison from £10. Specialities in the vast principal dining room include carpaccio, slivers of foie gras, guinea fowl with almonds, and oxtail steeped in wine from the Loire.

In the Loire valley I have known the Auberge Jeanne-de-Laval since reading a recommendation for it in the mid-1950s. I am delighted to say that this lovely place at Les Rosiers, between Angers and Saumur, is now in the hands of chef Michel Augereau, who trained with the legendary Joël Robuchon. The restaurant, and its associated hotel, the Ducs d'Anjou, is still flourishing with a Michelin star. Gault Millau awards it two toques and a smiley face ("warm welcome").

Another possibility in the Loire is the Hôtelier du Prieuré Saint-Lazare, within the walls of the royal abbey of Fontevraud. An invitation to calm and meditation indeed, but if the cooking is without pretension, it is also solidly founded and far removed from monastic abstinence. Menus from £10 and rooms from £30 to £49 a night.

One of the most intensively gastronomic areas of France is Alsace - witness the inset maps the guidebooks require to chart its galaxy of stars and awards. The market leader is the Auberge de l'Ille at Illhaeusern, a three-star Michelin restaurant.

One other favourite is La Grandgelière in Eguisheim. This perfect little loveknot of gabled houses has to be the most endearing in Alsace. Alain Finkbeiner worked with Troisgros at Roanne and Chi-

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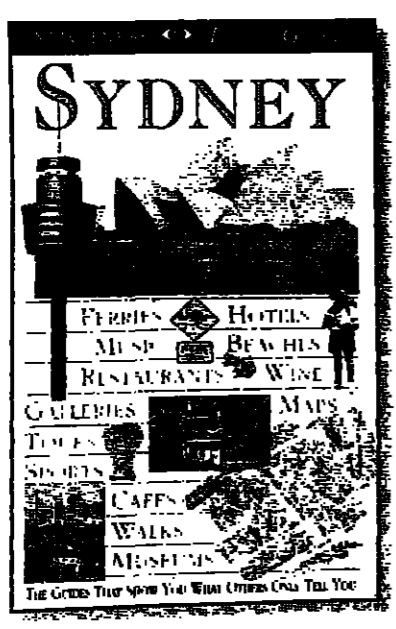
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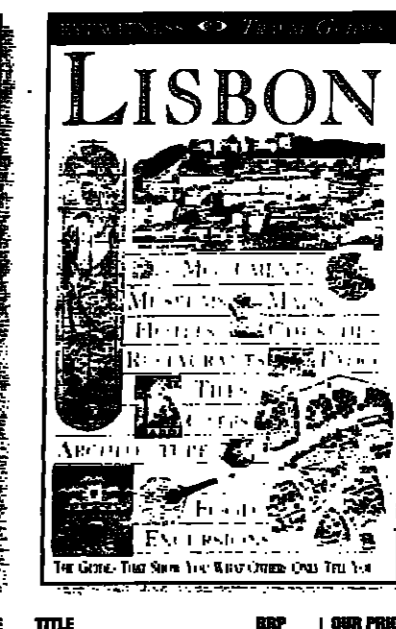
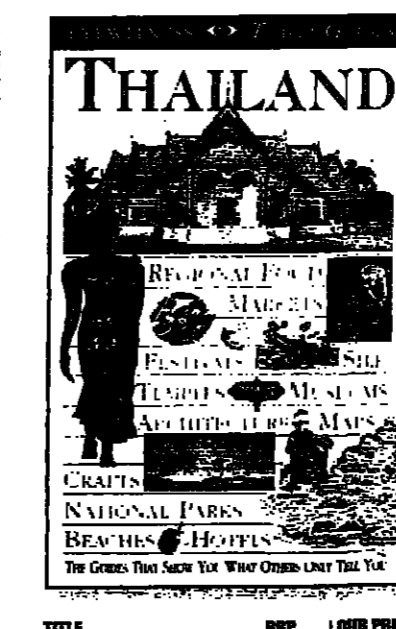
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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS... THE TIMES... current guarantee that members will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page...

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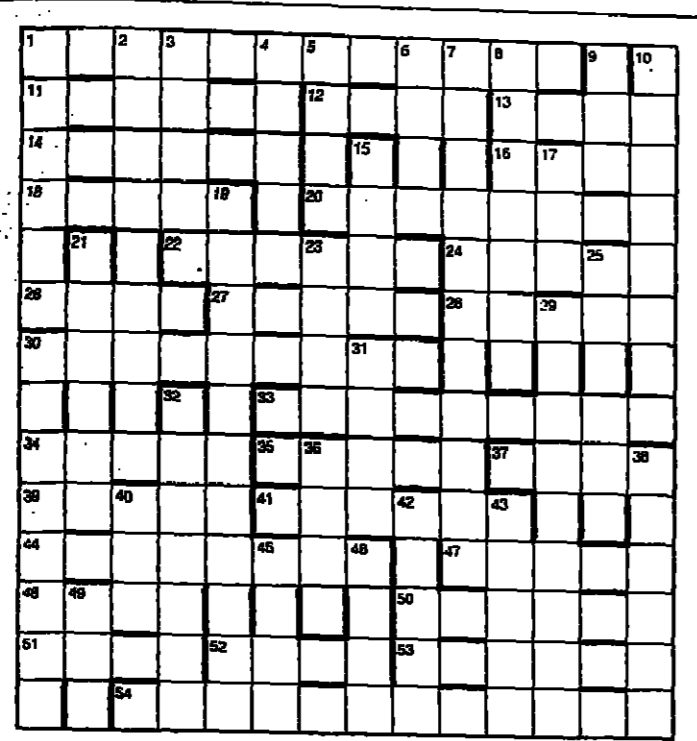
WHY E.C.? Quite simply, it's because members of the Executive Club of St James's have a near unlimited choice of high quality members... E.C. THE BEST THERE IS - OR YOUR FEE REFUNDED

THE TIMES... THE SUNDAY TIMES... WANT A DATE? RING THE TIMES... 0171 481 4000

aford  
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recipitate delivery  
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tal, Michaela Farmer  
unexpectedly and  
plashed into the  
car. Her mother  
had misinterpreted  
the cause of her  
trummy ache.  
More than 20  
years ago I  
attended a similar  
case. The mother  
of an extremely  
overweight baby  
who telephoned me  
at the hospital had  
in her driveway  
and had taken  
in the outside pen. I  
was advised to  
the hospital to  
the baby from the  
the...

No. 3469: Fourth of July — by Mass



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3469  
in association with Waterstone's

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3469, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, July 16.

**WATERSTONE'S**

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10

Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in almost every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 527700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions 01225 448296. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's call 01225 448295.

CONSECUTIVE letters in each given STATE furnish synonyms or hints (and, in two cases, abbreviations) for 13 respective answers. Their unchecked, and mutually checking, letters could be arranged as: COLONIAL RISING? RIOT OUT IN R.I.L.L. STIR US.

Another 13 words in the grid are formed when the above-mentioned states free themselves from respective answers to normal clues. The remaining clues each comprise a definition part (word or phrase) and a hidden consecutive jumble of the light incorporating one extra letter. These extras, in clue order, spell out a light-hearted quasi-hemiac phrase (five words and an article). Numbers in brackets always refer to lengths of lights in the grid.

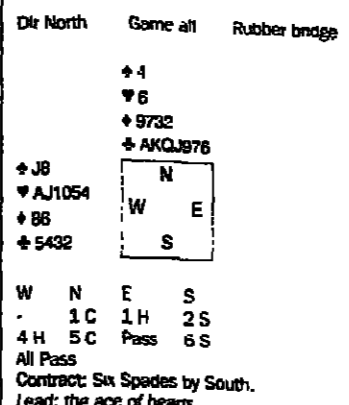
- ACROSS**
- 1 CONNECTICUT (12)
  - 11 Old helmet found in Winooski, a Minuteman's (6)
  - 12 Murrumbidgee, rebelliously (4)
  - 13 Vanguard of infantry covered by large, rough old fragments of rock (6)
  - 14 Spirit of the Alamo's precedent? It runs in the blood (6)
  - 16 Taxes nagged, creating historical divisions (4)
  - 18 The Bostonian was decidedly biased (5)
  - 20 Studies feature about new restriction of liberty (8)
  - 22 Every colonist, England said, is bound by duties (6, two words)
  - 24 A prophet of independence, as I hoped (5)
  - 26 Line from poet, revolutionary (4)
  - 27 Was conspicuous at Monmouth Courthouse, N.J. (5)
  - 28 Erratic tax without government came undone (5)
  - 33 One taking (off) of wear, I keep rebels informed (9)
  - 34 So tea shirts emptied of contents completely (5)
  - 35 N. CAROLINA (5)
  - 37 Colony's initial revolutionary tensions — not one for sanctions (4)
  - 39 Retreating Redcoats from hairy pronouncements (5)
  - 41 ... from mountain activity, out of cover of trees (6)
  - 44 S. CAROLINA (6)
  - 47 Imprudent Act, bringing in pile: right gnawing thing (5)
  - 48 Support at Saratoga let Burgoyne down (4)
  - 50 Prevent it! Rebelliousness that's fresh as in former times? (6)
  - 51 DELAWARE (4)
  - 52 RHODE ISLAND (4)
  - 53 Against tax abuse, eg Americans rise (6)
  - 54 GEORGIA (12, two words)
- DOWN**
- 1 MARYLAND (6)
  - 2 PENNSYLVANIA (9)
  - 3 Imperial, sec. King George's old preserving factor (5)
  - 4 VIRGINIA (5)
  - 5 Large-scale independence, ie politically (4)
  - 6 Regular detachment of troops, short of 50, ending in Lexington (4)
  - 7 NEW JERSEY (11, two words)
  - 8 NEW HAMPSHIRE (7)
  - 9 Points — restricting American state — mount (3)
  - 10 Form separatist state? Normally one leaving will (6)
  - 15 Keep day close to "Jonathan" (4)
  - 17 Celebrated revolutionary, hard grind (3)
  - 19 MASSACHUSETTS (11)
  - 21 Do harm to British bond? (6)
  - 23 Tory snappers make an American rail (4)
  - 25 Immense fun, teeming out, observing Independence Day? (6, two words)
  - 29 Virginians are preponderant among the protagonists (9)
  - 30 Stamp Act's cordial? Does this represent an East Coast view? (6)
  - 31 The old island's relinquished (4)
  - 32 He embraces a heritage, complete, eg Eastern States included (7)
  - 36 High card I played, capturing Princeton ultimately (4)
  - 38 A ship John Paul Jones tested (6)
  - 40 Gassed with staff over Townsend's extremity (3)
  - 42 NEW YORK (5)
  - 43 States, note protected by creeds with Amendments (5)
  - 45 Ready for action against HMS Scorpis (4)
  - 46 Language provided by tax, mostly (4)
  - 49 Time-clock has point — for mounting onsets in Delaware and Yorktown (3)

**Solution and notes for No. 3466 F-Fools by France**

The "characters" removed from across answers were 11 fielding positions in cricket: 3 FINE LEG; 5 SLIP; LONG LEG; 6 GULLY; KEEPER; 7 COVER; SQUARE LEG; 10 MID-WICKET; 12 BOWLER; 13 MID-ON; 16 LONG OFF. These were replaced by M (for man) from the intersecting down answer. The title referred to the following lines from Kipling's *The Islanders*:  
Then ye returned to your trinkets; then ye contented your souls  
With the flannelled fools at the wicket or the muddled oafs at the goals.  
The winner is A. Dixon, Aylesbury, Bucks. The runners up are: H. Cudmore, Cheltenham, Glos; H.E. Workman, Marston Green, Birmingham; C. Upton, Southall, Middlesex; A. Japp, Falkirk, Stirlingshire; M. Day, London N6

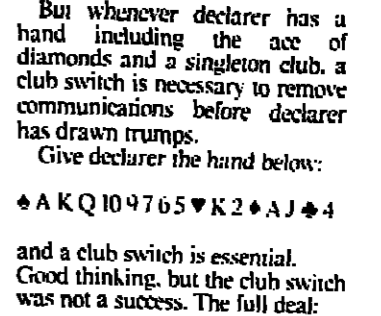
BRIDGE  
by Robert Sheehan

ON THE DEAL below West has to find a continuation at trick two.



All follow to the ace of hearts. East playing the queen. What should West do now?  
You might say the queen of hearts is clearly a suit preference for the higher of the other two suits, and so West should play a diamond without considering the matter further. That was my initial reaction when I was shown the hand by the West player (Munir Ata-Ulha, Pakistani international and Rhodes scholar, voted second most cultured member of TGRs in their annual poll).  
An additional reason for a diamond was that East was a player with a notoriously short fuse — if a diamond is the only defence and West plays something else, he will have to put up with a tirade of abuse.  
But Ata eventually convinced me

that a club was the best percentage shot. It is not that East will be ruffing — if he had had a void club he would have doubled Six Spades (a Lighner doublet asking for an unusual lead.  
But whenever declarer has a hand including the ace of diamonds and a singleton club, a club switch is necessary to remove communications before declarer has drawn trumps.  
Give declarer the hand below:



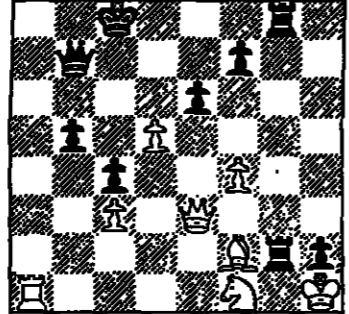
and a club switch is essential. Good thinking, but the club switch was not a success. The full deal:  
The declarer's two losing diamonds went away on top clubs and Ata adopted a defensive posture.  
The post-mortem revealed round whether East's play of the queen of hearts was a demand ("request" said Ata) for a diamond switch. In vain did Ata argue that East could not tell West had four clubs: East was not listening.

WORD ANSWERS

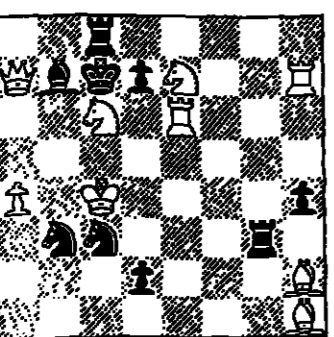
- Answers from page 36
- HOUBARA**  
(c) A bustard found in North Africa and Asia.
- MANDAT**  
(b) Paper money issued by the French Revolutionary Government from 1796 to 1797.
- MUNGAREE**  
(a) Food. Adaptation of the Italian mangiarie to eat. Henry Mayhew, *Labour, 1861*: "We [sc. strolling actors] call breakfast, dinner, tea, supper, all of them mungaree."
- JANKEN**  
(a) Japanese children's game played with the hands. Now principally used in sports to decide ends. "There was the ritual with children of Jan ken pon, a game in which fist and fingers represent paper, rock, or scissors."
- TWO BRAINS**  
Question 1  
Evolution, Catastrophism, Santa Maria, Argo.  
Question 2  
1326. Dates of accession to the throne, averaged out.

CHESS  
by Raymond Keene

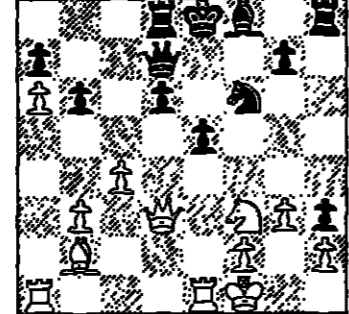
THE following position is the opening puzzle for the 1998 British Chess Solving Championship. The problem is White to play and mate in two moves against any Black defence. If you wish to enter you should send a cheque or postal order for £3 to cover administrative expenses with your entry which should consist of White's first move only to: British Chess Problem Society, 9 Roydfield Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S20 6ND. Those entering should enclose an SAE so that they can be notified if they have reached the second, postal stage of the championship.



Please mention that you are entering via *The Times* when you send in your answer. The championship is only open to UK residents. The closing date is July 31, 1998. Good luck with your solving and I look forward to an excellent entry from *Times* readers, who submitted overwhelmingly more entries last year than any other newspaper!



I have received a fax on House of Lords' newspaper from Lord Kilbracken, captain of the House of Lords chess team. It refers to the following position originally published as a Winning Move on Wednesday, May 6. Black to play. This position is from the game Chrobak v Daroczy, Debrecen 1988. Black's powerful play along the g-file and h1-a8 diagonal grants him the opportunity for a neat tactical finish. How did the game conclude?



WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene  
winning material advantage?  
The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society.  
Answers on a postcard please, addressed to Winning Move competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.  
The answer will be published next Saturday.  
Solution to last week's competition: 1 Qh5+  
The winner is: PW Newstead, Letchworth, Herts

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES  
by Tim Wapshott

NOW THAT the exam season is with us teachers have more than their fair share of homework to do. A new British website has started up, which is "run by teachers for teachers".

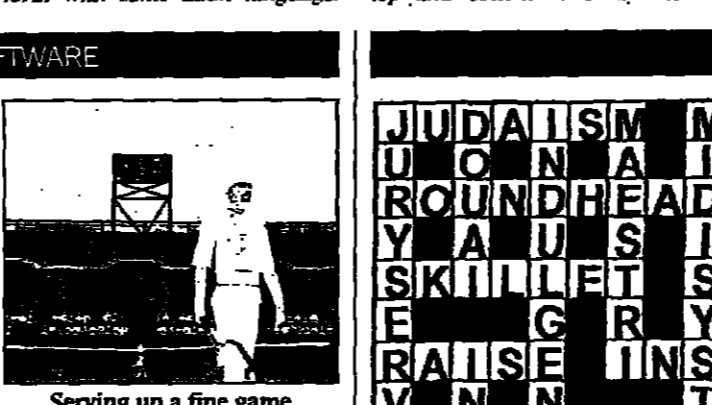


Changing times in the staff room, where teachers now surf the Net

"Teacher's Library of Resources" (<http://www.lotus.com/uk/teach>) is a one-stop swap-shop for primary and secondary teachers. The homepage features a blackboard with subjects chalked up, such as English, Maths, Science and I.T. Each offers a variety of coverage from National Curriculum and school policy issues to planning, homework and revision ideas.  
The website, based in Monkwood, Hants, runs along co-operative lines. Registered users are invited to download and use any of the materials, free, but are also invited to upload any useful materials to share for posting at the site. In the area Staff Room, teachers can chat online with others.

creativity and uses a computer-generated voice to read aloud what has been written.  
According to BBC Online, "a built-in filter detects inappropriate words — checking them against a database — and blocks them." But a glitch in the filter means that some Macintosh versions spewed forth with some adult language.

LITERARY EDUCATIONAL software aimed at children aged seven to nine recently spelt trouble for the Panasonic Interactive Media Company in Santa Clara, California. Its *Secret Writer's Society* program encourages children to undertake writing "missions" to develop their



Serving up a fine game

NEW SOFTWARE

WHAT ALL Wimbledon regulars know by now is that the real news of the event is always the same: aren't the strawberries pricey this year? Blue Byte's Game, Net and Match is a well-timed and well designed tennis sim with distinct advantages over most of the competitors.  
Lobs, backhands and smashes are simple enough to carry off effectively once you have spent a little time mastering the art in training mode.  
The game serves up plenty of fine options, from court playing surfaces, like grass and tarmac to off-the-shelf players of varying skill levels. In the custom editor you can also make your own players and pump up their muscle and skill levels to your heart's content.  
Game, Net and Match also has multiplayer options so that you can play others around the world over the Net. In the main, the title looks good with slick, multi-camera coverage of the action.  
The attempts to complete the Wimbledon-style experience are, however, only partly successful. The animation sequences which pop-up are intended to make the game more of a televisual treat and so is the real-time audio commentary, but both actually detract from the overall appeal. Verdict: 7 out of 10. Blue Byte serves up a timely tennis sim. £29.99.  
CORNWALL'S Topologica Software specialises in developing educational titles. The latest program from the Penryn-based company is *Sherlock*, designed to hone children's literary skills. The title, which runs on Acorn and Windows machines, comes on

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 172

JUDASISM MILKSOP HYPOCYCLOID  
UONAI OES SA O HURE  
ROUNDHEADED ROYAL ALBERT HALL  
Y A U S I I J C M I M T N J  
SKILLET SACRED HEART OBLIGER  
E G R Y U A C I T E I  
RAISE INSULIN SOFTCORE TABU  
V N N T T E T O C O U D M  
INKSTAINED WARCORRESPONDENT  
C B C M E T I P U I D R  
ECLIPSED EXCAVATE RECHERCHE  
O R I A R I T O R H M  
NATIONAL INCOME DENBIGHSHIRE  
U T P N T E S M S O U T L N  
THEN AND THERE PINS AND NEEDLES  
C S G A B S D A D B E F  
RETRACTOR ARCHDUKE DOORJAMB  
A T H G T U L E G A C U  
CATHOLIC EPISTLES HECTOLITRE  
K W R N O E D S O O O N  
EDOM CRACKNEL IMPERIL GARBO  
R E P E H I S R G I L T S  
SPILLED AMARANTHINE ANAEMIA  
U S A I I D T A N T N B O I  
INTENSIFICATION GLOBEFLOWER  
T E A N C P O C E W R E E E  
ENDORSEMENT NIELSEN OBSORTS

The winner of five Oxford University Press reference books is Anu Dudhia of Oxford OX1 1TN

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Recently I was a guest with a group of other people at a country house and garden. Our hostess and all present were members of the same college gardening course...

that striped shirts should never be worn with pin- or chalk-striped suits. The same prohibition does not apply to checks which can look very attractive if teamed in a stylish way...

Further to your answer on June 13 about what to do with dinner-time gifts (or gifts generally to one's hostess, when invited either to a meal or to stay) what is correct these days: to take such gifts or not to take them?

does not? — Lionel G Holmes, Devon.

Present-giving, although seemingly universal today, is not de rigueur in all social situations. For instance, if invited to a grand formal dinner to which evening dress is worn, it is bad manners for guests to arrive grinning with a gift...



You wonder correctly. These acts, although well-meaning, are bad-mannered especially if the verdant carnage is left littering lawns, flowerbeds and paths. They are also ill-advised and old-fashioned, considering the vogue for the "wilderness garden", where recherche and strategically placed weeds may form an intrinsic feature.

My sister-in-law and I think it is bad-mannered when our hosts keep the TV on when we visit. It is hard to converse when the person you are speaking to sits with one eye and ear on the TV...

I recently took my family to the Stoke Newington Fair. I chose to wear beige corduroy trousers with a three-button Crombie jacket, a light-brown tweed, leather-button waistcoat, a quietly checked (with rustic-design cutflinks) shirt and a wide, green silk tie with large white polka dots...

My girlfriend came to stay with me recently and kindly offered to iron my shirts. Unfortunately, this seemingly innocuous activity developed into an argument after she insisted on ironing a crease along the top of my sleeves. I was brought up to believe that shirt sleeves should not have creases...

Yes, they do. Your daughter's prejudice about checks is related to the well-worn city convention



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

HOUBARA a. Camel pilau b. A hubble-bubble pipe c. A bird

MANDAT a. An Imperial edict b. Money c. A belt

MUNGAREE a. Crab b. Print worker's overalls c. An Indian caste

JANKEN a. A children's game b. Military detention c. A Prussian landowner

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

"If you want to get a good idea, get a lot of ideas!" — Dr Linus Pauling, two-time Nobel prize winner.

Question 1 Can you complete the following: Marx is to Communism as Darwin is to? Einstein is to relativity as Currier is to? Nelson is to Victory as Columbus is to? Kirk is to Enterprise as Jason is to?

Question 2 If the average of Victoria, Elizabeth I and Mary I is 1649, what is the average of John, George I and William I?

Answers on page 35



CROSS WORDS

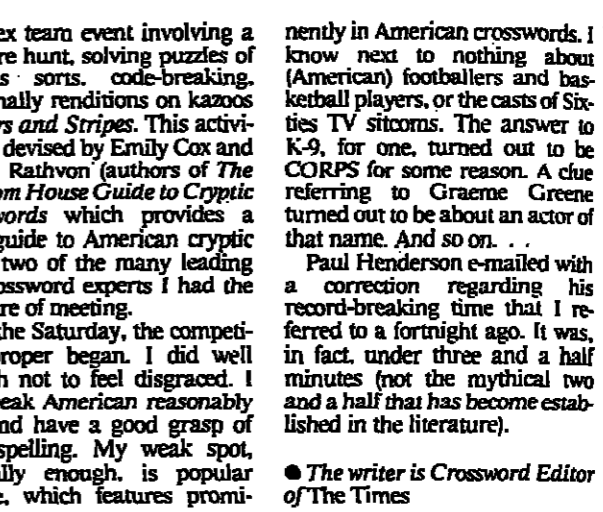
by Brian Greer

Tomorrow this year's Crossword Championship kicks off with the regional final in Leeds. I regret I won't be able to fly over for the event, as I'll miss the chance to talk to solvers, including some with whom I've exchanged letters.



PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what was said when David Beckham was shown the red card.



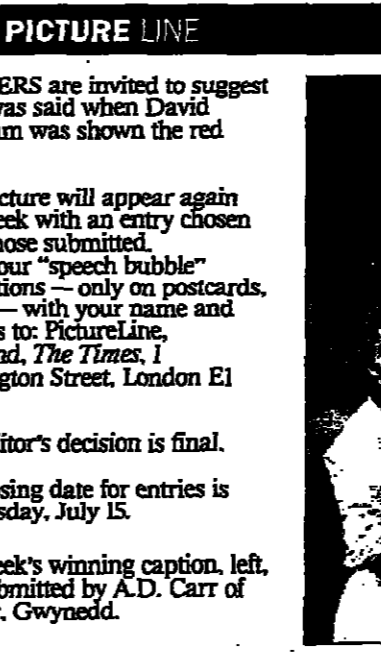
The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 15.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by A.D. Carr of Bangor, Gwynedd.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Yet again I have had to listen to people peddle lies and then watch them walk away." — Neville Lawrence during the inquiry into the murder of his son Stephen



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

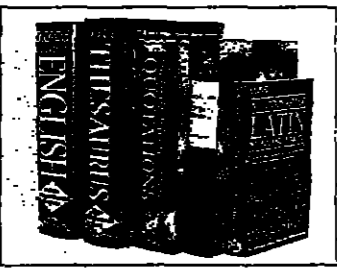
"David Beckham's sending off cost us dearly. I am not denying it cost us the game." — Glenn Hoddle after England lost to Argentina on penalties



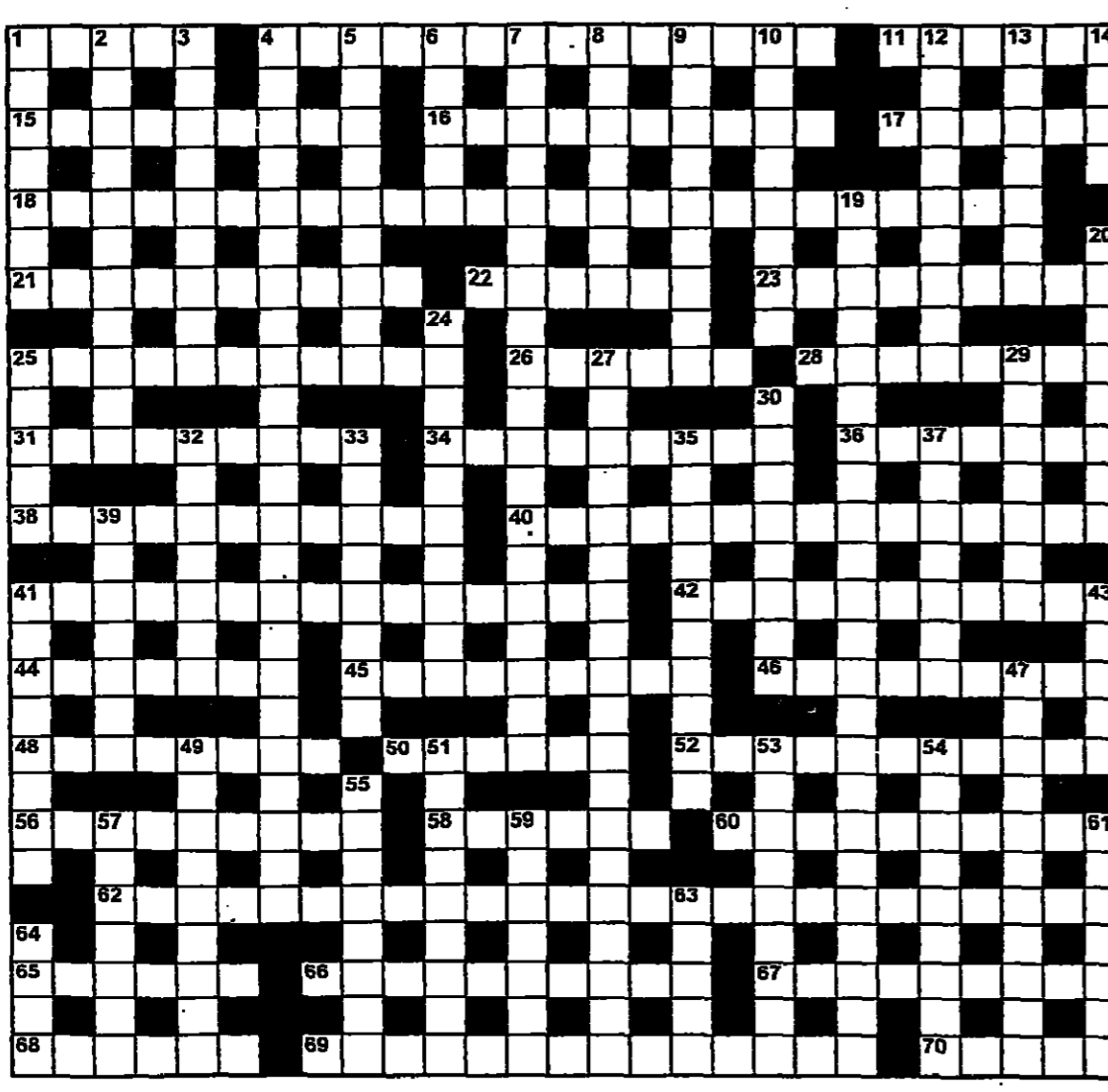
QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Nothing short of a disaster." — Sir Richard Eyre on the Royal Opera House

JUMBO CROSSWORD 174



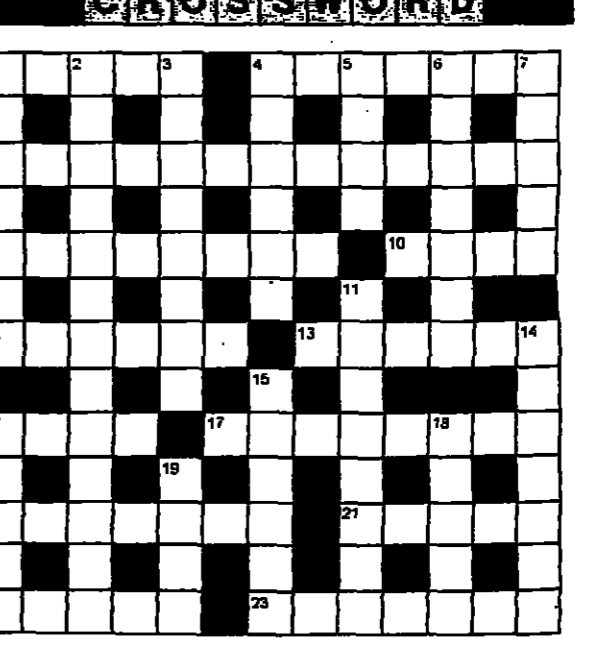
The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100.



NAME ADDRESS POSTCODE

- ACROSS 1 Initially, will love repeatedly have a little hesitation seeing me? (5) 4 Find learner with fast car is out of control — where pedestrians should be safe! (7,7) 11 Member of the guard in the old sultanate (6) 15 Others joining priests — they help the tired and sick (4,5) 16 Gales clear ground over a wide area (5) 17 Image-makers to get into contact with straightaway (6) 18 Man appearing after a petition to the highest authority (3,6,2,1,7,6) 21 Place visited offering drink from California, by the litre (4,2,4) 22 Cold, tough fish in a place where the occupants'll eat anything (6) 23 King James Bible is kept in loft — from a fair few generations back (9) 25 Once again reckon ale may be involved in terribly cruel act (11) 26 Aussie friend wants iced drink left out (8) 28 Big container taken by port — place under an obligation (4,4) 31 A single diamond may be played by one player (9) 34 Add odd details to make bride more fancy (9) 36 Squeezing device dealt with rubbish blocking entrance (7) 38 A number down under contributing to something vulgar (11) 40 Unholy goings-on occur in such match venues — popular, but not correct form! (8,7) 41 Laid out the cockles maybe and gave an emotional utterance (6,4,5) 42 Tree came green in spring, time to come out with a fresh appearance (2,9) 44 Final statement publicised following departure (7) 45 Hormone is not broken down in the heart (9) 46 What's most sore? Offer electro-shock treatment (9) 48 Reduce the volume of refuse (4,4) 50 Bracket fixed to wall in small fort (6) 52 Support change without end, given real money (5,6) 56 Showjumping challenge may account for Sue's panic (9) 58 Fruit which helps to produce awful ticks (8) 60 Characters in it may resolve to skip a cadre (4,6) 62 Is clued up, capable of measuring pulse accurately? (5,3,4,5,4,4) 65 Toy gun — present on toddler's first (6) 66 One is one of one (10) 67 One flickering source of luminance in the dark? (4,5) 68 An idol held by old man in temple (6) 69 Obstacle has son falling at front of housing complex (9,5) 70 Senior member longing to follow the party (5)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1449

- ACROSS 1 Go to see (5) 4 Puffer (7) 8 Escape from danger (4,4,5) 9 Final movement of mass; due a sing (anag.) (5,5) 10 Nimble (for one's age) (4) 12 N African desert (6) 13 Fine (sugar); wheel under chair (6) 16 Coffin stand (4) 17 Long-pig eater (8) 20 Rescuer (7) 21 Dumb animal (5) 22 Drift (of discourse); singing voice (5) 23 Able to be worked out (7)
- DOWN 1 These giving homage (7) 2 Height of bliss (7,6) 3 Clothes; Wallace's wrong ones (8) 4 Annoyed (slang) (6) 5 Red gem (4) 6 Back of skull (7) 7 Child-minder (5) 11 Carthage leader v Rome (8) 14 Lift siege of (town) (7) 15 Carpenter's companion (Alice) (6) 16 Surrounded (with troubles) (5) 18 Sales pitch on dust-jacket (6) 19 A pig; sounds like wave coming upriver (4)

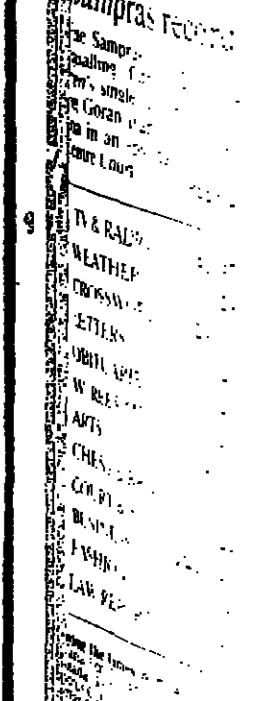
SOLUTION TO No 1448 ACROSS: 7 NATO 8 Tribunal 9 Patois 10 Lackey 11 Wary 12 Outreach 15 Einstein 17 Sour 18 Dearth 21 Dawdle 22 Hiawatha 23 Ness DOWN: 1 Mata Hari 2 Nobody 3 Otopscope 4 Pill 5 Queiche 6 Rake 13 Tone-deaf 14 Churlish 16 Shrewd 17 Sowing 19 Eric 20 Hate

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE! One side of cricket field (7) Notice one like Grimmond speak without notes (2,5) Inverted vessels freeze (4)



Meet our fantasy...



مكتبة من الأصل